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Maccabi stays alive in Europe

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Will Israel go for gas?

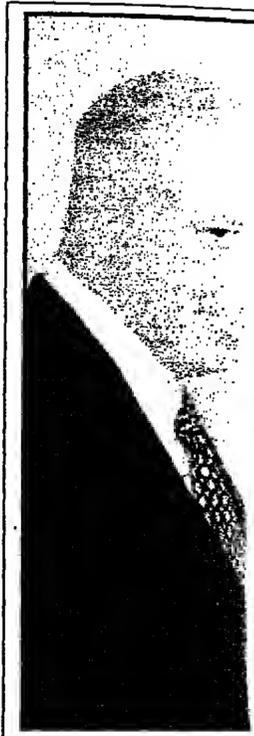
Money Magazine

Beatle becomes Sir Paul

World News, Page 5

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Netanyahu in Moscow
Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. Story, Page 12.

5 MKs: Boycott Migdal

By DAVID HARRIS

A group of some five MKs is to call for a national boycott of Migdal Insurance this afternoon, following an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange that Assicurazioni Generali and Bank Leumi have agreed to Migdal's sale. Knesset sources said last night.

There is extreme anger among as MKs, who represent a variety of parties, the sources said, that the deal has been allowed to go ahead while there is still a dispute over Generali's alleged continued refusal to pay out on life-insurance policies that Holocaust victims had taken out.

Knesset insurance sub-committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher) is one of those leading the campaign against the Italian-based company, one of Europe's largest insurers.

Last night at least one MK was considering introducing a Migdal bill into the Knesset. The bill would insist the \$300 million deal not be allowed until the company pay compensation, on the grounds that it is acting immorally.

Leumi, Migdal's current owner,

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Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday ordered invitations issued to the US, Russia, the European Union, Norway, and Japan to attend a Gaza conference on Saturday to decide what the Oslo Accords have to say regarding recent Israeli decisions on Jerusalem and redeployment.

Officials in his office last night said Arafat called a meeting of his security chiefs to discuss the deteriorating situation.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he had been asked to issue the invitations yesterday, but that so far he had received no responses.

Israeli officials were said to be trying to persuade the US not to send a representative, however US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington would attend the meeting, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said yesterday.

"If an invitation is formally issued to the US, we'll be there," Burns told reporters. "We understand the level of frustration on the part of the Palestinians. But the only way something good is going to happen is if they continue to talk to the Israeli government, and

buffeted by some fairly significant Israeli government decisions over the last couple of weeks," so holding the conference is "appropriate," Burns said, adding that the US disputes reports that Arafat has cut off talks with Israel. Burns said that US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross "is not aware that

Ullback Phase I

there has been a ban on contacts, and he thinks that some contacts are ongoing, which is a good thing."

He said that President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Ross are involved in the Israeli-Palestinian track on an "almost daily basis."

Foreign Minister David Levy called a news conference in Jerusalem to protest the plan. "Any attempt to bring about international intervention is likely, and I warn against a danger that Israel does not want, is likely to freeze the peace process," Levy said. "Any attempt for international intervention... will lead to a freeze

on.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday played down the dispute with the Palestinians.

"This kind of doomsday talk and the whole histrionic attitude towards obvious disagreement is itself not conducive to the [peace] process," Netanyahu told a Moscow news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov. "We have disagreements. We cannot at every stage of this agreement engage in cataclysmic predictions and talk of crisis and violence. The important thing is we keep our side of the agreement. We expect the Palestinians to keep theirs and they haven't."

On the issue of Har Homa, Netanyahu said: "We're not building a settlement... we're building a neighborhood in the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, which is done every day in Amman, in Gaza, in Cairo, and in Moscow."

Erekat said the invitations were issued because Levy in his meeting with Arafat's deputy and Oslo architect Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday rejected his appeal to have an Israeli legal team talk with a

Continued on Page 2

relationship not to be held hostage to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Since he values their own personal friendship, Netanyahu said he is "baffled by the personal attacks against me." His only conclusion is that Hussein is "not being fully apprised of the true picture" of Israel's security situation.

The three-page letter by Hussein strongly suggests that the rift between the two leaders is far deeper than has been previously acknowledged. Specifically, Hussein questions Netanyahu's assertion that he is committed to peace, just as he questions that Netanyahu is being forced to build Har Homa due to coalition pressure.

Hussein writes: "My distress is genuine and deep over the accumulating tragic actions which you have initiated at the head of the government of Israel, making peace - the worthiest objective of my life - appear more and more like a distant elusive mirage."

"I could remain aloof if the very lives of all Arabs and Israelis and their future were not fast sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair."

"Your course of actions seems bent on destroying all I believe in or

Hussein: PM's policy leading bloodshed

The king's letter

Text of letter sent from Jordan's King Hussein to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on March 9:

Prime Minister,
My distress is genuine and deep over the accumulating tragic actions which you have initiated at the head of the government of Israel, making peace - the worthiest objective of my life - appear more and more like a distant elusive mirage. I could remain aloof if the very lives of all Arabs and Israelis and their future were not fast sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair.

I frankly cannot accept your repeated excuse of having to act the way you do under great duress and pressure. I cannot believe that the people of Israel seek bloodshed and disaster and oppose peace. Nor can I believe that the most constitutionally powerful prime minister in Israeli history would act on other than his total convictions. The saddest reality that has been dawning on me is that I do not find you by my side in working to fulfill God's will for the final reconciliation of all the descendants of the children of Abraham.

Your course of actions seem bent on destroying all I believe in or have striven to achieve with the Hashemite family since Faisal the First and Abdullah to the present times. You cannot send me assurances that you would not sanction any further construction of settlements and tell me of your decision to construct two roads to help all concerned Israelis and Palestinians alike and then renege on your commitment. In pushing matters to the point of securing a US veto at the Security Council, you have ill served the image and interest of your major ally and benefactor and our partner in peace making as the honest balanced peace broker.

Mr. Prime Minister, if it is your intention to maneuver our Palestinian brethren into inevitable violent resistance, then order your bulldozers into the proposed settlement site without doing much which is needed in recognition of Palestinian and Arab sensitivity, anger and despair and ameliorating the situation, then order the young Israeli members of your powerful armed forces surrounding Palestinian towns to commit wanton murder and mayhem, possibly resulting in creating yet a fresh exodus of hapless Palestinians from their, and their ancestors, homeland and bury the peace process for all times.

On the question of your withdrawal from territories you have committed Israel, before the US, Jordan, and the world, to complete the process by mid-1998, what good did it serve to offer such an insignificant first phase withdrawal? Why the apparent continued deliberate humiliation of your so called Palestinian partners? Can any worthwhile relationship thrive in the absence of mutual respect and trust?

Why are Palestinians still confirming that their agricultural products still not awaiting entry into Israel and export? Why the delay when it is known that unless work is authorized to commence on the Gaza port, before the end of this month, the complete project would suffer a year's delay? Finally, the Gaza Airport - all of us have addressed the subject numerous times with a view to having a legitimate Palestinian need met and to give their leaders and people their own free access to the world rather than their present confinement and need to exit and return through other sovereign territories.

Continued on Page 5

have striven to achieve with the Hashemite family since Faisal the First and Abdullah of present times."

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Palestinian and Arab sensitivity, anger and despair and ameliorating the situation. Then order the young Israeli members of your powerful armed forces surrounding Palestinian towns to commit wanton murder and mayhem, possibly resulting in creating yet a fresh exo-

Continued on Page 5

Five-year-old's savvy prevents further casualties in Hizbullah attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Inquiries into the abortive Hizbullah car-bomb attack in the security zone on Monday have revealed that a major catastrophe was averted - thanks to a local five-year-old boy.

An IDF soldier was moderately wounded and two Lebanese civilians were lightly hurt in the blast. Senior IDF sources stressed, however, that the outcome would have

been far worse had it not been for the youngster and his family and the quick action of South Lebanese Army and IDF troops in the area.

Israel yesterday lodged an official complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the incident. The group is to meet at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura on Thursday.

The inquiries revealed that the car had been stolen in Huleh, a Shiite village not far from the scene of the blast, and that about 200 kg. of explosives had been planted in it. The owner of the white Toyota has been living abroad for several years.

Members of the SLA's security

apparatus conducted widespread searches in Huleh village in the wake of the blast and a number of people were detained for questioning on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbullah activists.

The car bomb was then driven to a spot on a main route used frequently by IDF and SLA troops, as well as local residents, and parked virtually alongside a house belonging to the Shabour family on the outskirts of Tel al-Kabah village.

The father sent one of his sons, aged five, to check on the suspicious vehicle and he discovered a man inside armed with a rifle. He informed his father, who went to investigate himself and was threatened by the gunman.

The man went back to his family, and led them all out of the house, through a rear door, and alerted SLA troops nearby, who in turn informed IDF troops who were on patrol in the area.

The Hizbullah gunman realized he had been spotted and fled the scene, after operating the device in the car. SLA troops spotted him and opened fire, but apparently without hitting him.

The huge bomb, packed with metal ball bearings to make it more deadly, exploded seconds later, wounding two of the family's children and a soldier from the IDF patrol.

The soldier, whose unit was about 200 meters away from the

car bomb when it exploded, was hit by one of the ball bearings that penetrated his shoulder. He is recovering in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The front of the Shabour family's house, as well as their car, were destroyed by the blast. Brig-Gen. Yom-Tov Samiya, commander of the Galilee Division, praised the family's actions and said the damage to the house would be repaired free of charge as a gesture of appreciation.

The SLA has stepped up road blocks and more checks are now being carried out on roads in the security zone as part of efforts to thwart future car or suicide bomb attacks.



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NEWS

in brief

Kahalani to decide on closure of PA offices

The Palestinian Authority was granted a 24-hour extension yesterday by the Ministry of Internal Security to provide documents proving that the four Palestinian offices in eastern Jerusalem slated to be closed are not affiliated with the PA.

Draft law defines GSS authority, activities

The authority and activities of the General Security Service have, for the first time since the establishment of the state, been defined by a draft law. The proposed law also defines the means of appointing the head of the service, the obligation of those employed in the service to report to the cabinet and the Knesset, and restrictions on employees and their spouses, among other things.

Two killed, two injured on roads

Felice Semanto, a member of Kibbutz Yad Hannah, was killed yesterday when his car collided with a truck at the entrance to the kibbutz. According to the police, he had failed to stop at the stop sign by the exit and was struck and killed by the truck.

Two people were injured in road accidents in the western Galilee last night. In one, the driver was critically injured after his car overturned while fleeing from the police after they had beckoned him to stop at a junction. The driver, who is recovering in Nahariya Government Hospital, had had his license permanently revoked.

Latest Arrow test successful

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Yesterday's successful test launch of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile marked a significant step toward an initial deployment of the defense system against surface-to-surface missiles by the end of next year. It was the fourth test launch of the Arrow 2 missile and the Defense Ministry said the Arrow succeeded in locking onto and destroying the target missile fired from a navy ship. However, it said a malfunction in the warhead prevented the Arrow from detonating its warhead. The target was destroyed by the direct hit.

The results. Interception is supposed to take place between 10 kilometers and 50 kilometers above the ground.

The test launch of the interceptor took place yesterday afternoon at the Palmachim Air Base north of Ashdod. The test marked the first time that the system's Green Pine control radar and Citron Tree battle management center participated.

"Both worked according to plan and fulfilled all the test objectives," a ministry statement said.

The statement added that US and Israeli engineering teams were "very satisfied with the test results and are confident that they constitute significant forward progress toward a total integrated weapon system."

The mainly US-financed missile was last tested in August. Then it made its first impressive "metal-on-metal" direct hit of a target missile at high altitude. Another test is planned for this summer.

News of the successful test launch came as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was meeting with King Hussein at his palace in Amman. The monarch told Mordechai it was a "great achievement."

Mordechai later praised the test and said that the "significant and positive progress" of the Arrow project is bringing Israel to the forefront of world technology.

The IDF already has ordered two Arrow batteries, which are expected to be ready by the end of next year. Their deployment is expected to greatly enhance the protection from Scud surface-to-surface missiles, but will hardly be enough to completely eliminate the threat.

The US and Israel are financing the Arrow's development. So far, the project has cost \$700 million, with Israel's share being \$250m.

The projected cost is about \$1.6 billion, but analysts have reportedly said the missile could cost many times that figure. Because of US financing, Israel has agreed to give the US access to the Arrow's research and development data.

Hanegbi, NRP slam bid to change Direct Election Law

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

Attempts by MKs to change the law governing the direct election of the prime minister are "immoral and unconstitutional," Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday.

"It is a manipulative development on the part of those who are initiating it from the coalition and from the opposition," Hanegbi told Israel Radio, referring to recent attempts to alter the law so that a majority of 61 MKs rather than the current 81 could dismiss the prime minister.

Hanegbi, arguing that the change would be proven unconstitutional, said that while those in favor claim the Knesset needs to be strengthened, it would have the opposite effect.

"The outcome would be a probably unprecedented blow that would undermine the sovereign status of the Knesset as the result of the fact, I believe, that the law would be overturned by the High Court of Justice. To the best of my knowledge, it would be the first time that the [court] would intervene in the legislation of the Knesset."

For years it had been argued that there had to be a division of powers, Hanegbi said. The change in the law would be "contrary to any principle of constitutional democracy. It would change the rules during the game... Despite the fact that the High Court is in favor of restraint, I believe it would be forced to intervene to overturn the law passed by the Knesset."

National Religious Party leader and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer also came out yesterday against amending the Direct Election Law, suggesting changes "are cheap tricks that could harm the party's image."

The NRP MKs and ministers yesterday confirmed their internal discussions on a suggestion by three of their members — Shaul Yahalom, Porat, and Zvi Hendel — to leave the coalition.

The faction is asking for a meeting with the prime minister on his return from Moscow. The NRP has issued several demands on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "to renew our confidence in the government's ability to continue to strengthen our hold on the Land of Israel and Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza," in faction chairman Hanan Porat's words.

Hanegbi confident he won't be indicted

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday that, after six weeks of investigation into the Bar-On affair, he still believes that Channel 1 did not have solid evidence for the charges it had aired.

"My opinion has not changed," Hanegbi said in an Israel Radio interview. "It seems to me that, after all that has been published, and of course I treat these publications [in the media] with reservations, that there is nothing left but dust and rubble... with regard to the charges of Hebron for Bar-On."

Hanegbi said: "Like everyone else, I am awaiting the findings, and I have full confidence in the State Attorney's Office."

Earlier, ministry spokesman Ety Eshed denied a radio report that State Attorney Efraim Arbel planned to hold a press conference to expose the non-ethical public aspects of the affair. The investigation is not yet over and therefore nothing has been planned, Eshed said.

Mubarak slams 'Post'

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reportedly charged The Jerusalem Post yesterday with publishing editorial cartoons and articles that he said attack him, his government, and the Egyptian people.

Mubarak said the Post and other Israeli newspapers defame Egypt, according to a participant in a luncheon hosted in Mubarak's honor by the House international relations committee. The source said Mubarak "came prepared" following complaints about antisemitism in the Egyptian press voiced last week by several committee members who met with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

At the luncheon, Mubarak's aide distributed material from various Israeli newspapers that he said are "racist" against "the Arabs and the Egyptian people," the source said. After Congressman Sam Gejdenson, whose parents are Holocaust survivors, said the Egyptian press's use of swastikas was offensive, Mubarak responded

that he is sympathetic but could take no action on the matter.

He urged Americans and Israelis to take up the issues directly with the Egyptian media. Despite dissatisfaction in some quarters of Congress with Egypt's role in the peace process, the meeting was cordial and friendly, the source said.

Congressman Tom Lantos, a leading critic of Egypt on the committee, said yesterday he believes that Egypt and Mubarak "are playing a positive role." He also said Mubarak had invited him to visit Cairo later this month, and that he would likely do so.

Committee members, however, did not issue any threats against the Egyptian aid package, participants said.

Mubarak said afterward that his criticism of the US veto of the UN Security Council resolution on Har Homa "shouldn't shake relations" between the countries.

Standing beside Mubarak committee chairman Benjamin Gitlan said the meeting indicated bow "strong our bonds of friendship" are.

UN General Assembly begins Har Homa debate

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Israel is expected to take a beating today as the UN General Assembly opens a debate on the Har Homa project. The debate comes only days after the US vetoed a Security Council resolution against Israel's plan to build 6,500 housing units in the Jerusalem neighborhood.

The assembly debate is expected essentially to replicate last week's two-day council debate. Nearly 50 states addressed the council, with many characterizing Har Homa as part of an overall Israeli plan to ensure the "Judaization of Jerusalem" before the beginning of the final status negotiations with the Palestinians.

"I am going to tell the General Assembly that the UN is not the forum to discuss contentious issues between Israel and the Palestinians," David Peleg, the Israeli charge d'affaires, said yesterday. "We think it is wrong that, whenever there is a problem in negotiations, the Arabs rush to the UN, hoping to impose their view."

Peleg has made this argument on several occasions since he became the acting head of the Israeli Mission last May. "There are

some basic truths that are worth repeating, like, the UN is not the appropriate forum to discuss this," he said.

Israel is expected to lose any vote by an overwhelming majority. Assembly resolutions, however, are not binding.

Britain was one of the sponsors of last week's council's resolution. "The council has a responsibility to pronounce itself on this matter," British Ambassador John Weston said on Friday.

"With all due respect to the United Kingdom, it is up to the [two] sides to decide. This is one of the cores of the peace process," Peleg said, adding that today's assembly session "reminds me of an era predating the peace process, when this was part of the Arab political warfare against Israel."

"My concern is that heated arguments and strongly worded resolutions may have a negative impact on the peace process, may encourage the Palestinians to take more negative positions, and may encourage some people to take violent steps. All these dangers are in this debate," Peleg said. "My worry is not the result of the vote, because this will not decide the future of the peace process."

US ACCEPTS

Continued from Page 1

Palestinian legal team about the wording and intention of Oslo accords one and two.

"We urged them to sit with us and look at the provisions of the interim agreement... We urged them to bring their lawyers and they refused. We urged them to call the attention of the countries which signed with us and let them be the judge. They refused," Erekat, who attended the meeting, said.

While meetings with Israeli officials are informally suspended, meetings arranged between Arafat and non-government Israeli groups are continuing.

Today a group of 100 Israelis, mostly small businessmen are scheduled to meet with him in Gaza.

Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman last night confirmed that Saeb Erekat and Mahmoud Abbas had approached him to work towards bridging the gaps with Israel's leaders, "so that there would not be an explosion."

The president also called for greater efforts towards putting the process back on track. "We are in a state of crisis with the Palestinian people, after having already gone a long way," Weizman told a gathering of engineers at the Jerusalem International Conference Center.

"I believe there is a large force

Gilad: Arafat still considers armed conflict an option

By LIAT COLLINS

Deputy head of Military Intelligence Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad, who heads the IDF research division, reportedly said yesterday the PLO's executive had decided not to initiate incidents over the Har Homa project or the first of the further redeployments, although confrontation could not be ruled out.

In a report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Gilad said Yasser Arafat still believes he can make political achievements with a short round of armed conflict.

Gilad said Arafat is being very cautious and at this stage is acting to exert restraint. However, his messages are ambiguous and some elements could act of their own accord.

Gilad said local confrontations could be expected with the beginning of work on Har Homa, but it will be difficult to determine their scope or location. He said Arafat will not give up on a Palestinian state as a strategic goal and if he

thinks at any stage that this goal is growing further away, it might cause a harsh reaction.

In the meantime, Arafat is strengthening his status as leader among the Palestinians, both via the creation of the National Congress in Nabulus and by tightening his relationship with Hamas and the other rejectionist groups he sees as political bodies. In contrast, he continues to see the Islamic Jihad as a terror organization and is trying with marked success to stop it. The warm reception Arafat received in Washington and Europe also indicates his improved status, Gilad said.

Regarding Syria, Gilad said that President Hafez Assad is waiting for the series of visits by Arab leaders to Washington to end before deciding on any concrete steps regarding resuming talks with Israel.

In Gilad's assessment, there has been no change in Syria's stand. It continues to expect the return of the Golan Heights, while at the same time continuing to support Hizbullah activities in Lebanon.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street, Mt. Scopus. Hani will speak about Florence. From 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. there will be a sale and plants sale at the YMCA in aid of local charities.

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With deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved Dr KARL TH. LEDERER The funeral took place yesterday. Please refrain from condolence visits. Inl, Eytan, Ido and family

To Feigie & Rubin Zimmerman Deepest condolences on the passing of your mother and mother-in-law FREDA YAMPOLSKI Yossif Goldberg Mayor of Metulla

Bibie Lands Museum Jerusalem The Board of Directors and the Staff extend their sincere condolences to Feigie and Ruby Zimmerman on the passing of FREDA YAMPOLSKI

The shloshim memorial service for ROBERT (Bob) BROWN will take place on Thursday, March 13, 1997 (4 Adar II 5757) at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem. We will meet at the parking lot at 3:50 p.m. Following the graveside service, there will be a minha-ma'ariv service and study session (6:30 p.m.) at the Ramot Zion Congregation, 68 Rehov Bar Kochba, French Hill.

NEWS

in brief

700,000 pupils, teachers without shelters

Some 700,000 pupils and teachers throughout the country lack proper emergency shelters, it was announced yesterday at a press conference in Tel Aviv preceding today's planned civil defense exercise in schools.

OC Home Front Command Shmuel Arad said the problem is mainly in the central district. Meeting the needs for additional centers will cost close to a billion shekels and take several years, he said.

Today's civil defense exercise will take place in all the nation's schools, not including kindergartens. The drill will begin at 11:30, with pupils and teachers entering shelters and working on programs there devised by the Education Ministry. *Itim*

Mordechai: Employ disabled veterans

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has called on Israelis to employ handicapped IDF veterans, saying it was a duty that would help rehabilitate the disabled who "paid a heavy price and bear the scars of war."

"I'm sure that all of society and every business that employs IDF disabled will quickly find that they will contribute to the business and society much quicker than the businesses contribute to them," Mordechai said on a special Army Radio broadcast which fielded questions from IDF disabled. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Katsav, Arab ministers hold press conference

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav this week participated in a joint press conference with his Jordanian and Egyptian counterparts, Dr. Mamduh al Balfigi and Dr. Salah Ruseidat, at the ITB, the world's largest tourism fair, which is being held in Berlin. Although the Israeli and Jordanian tourism ministers held a joint press conference last year, this was the first such event with all three.

The Egyptian minister opened this year's press conference with a joint statement that all three countries are committed to a real and encompassing peace and that the peace process is irreversible. *Haim Shapiro*

Lod youth remanded till end of rape trial

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday remanded till the end of his trial a 15-year-old Lod youth accused of raping and sodomizing a seven-year-old girl last month. He also is accused of abusing her 10-year-old brother and slashing another youth with a knife in the course of that attack, as well as of another attack on a different young girl. Judge Avraham Baizer ruled that the suspect's remaining at liberty would be likely to endanger the public. *Itim*

Police shut down pirate radio station

Police shut down a pirate radio station broadcasting out of a Rishon LeZion bomb shelter yesterday, following severe disruptions at Ben-Gurion Airport the previous day due to interference in ground-to-air communications. Police raided the station during a live broadcast, detaining the broadcaster and confiscating equipment.

The Communications Ministry has asked the Treasury for funds to expand and better equip inspection teams seeking pirate radio stations. *Itim*

Weissman awarded NIS 70,000 in damages

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday awarded damages of just under NIS 70,000 to Michael Weissman of Bat Yam, who was acquitted on charges of murdering his daughter, Nathalie. The court said Weissman had been falsely accused, because he had been home asleep on the fatal night in December 1994, after which 33-year-old Nathalie was found dead, apparently by suffocation.

His wife, Miriam, 77, has appealed to the Supreme Court against her two-year jail sentence for attempted murder. *Itim*

Police fear murder may spark drug war

Lachish police expressed fears yesterday that the murder of 23-year-old Ashkelon drug-dealer Yariv Sa'ada could spark a chain of killings in the town. Sa'ada was shot from a passing car on Monday night and died later of his wounds in Barzilai hospital. Police fear that his friends and family might try to avenge his death. *Itim*



IDF troops arrest suspects in Dahariya yesterday following the knifing of a soldier guarding nearby Teneh Omarim. (AP)

IDF soldier stabbed by terrorists

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF soldier Moshe Konstantin, 19, was stabbed 20 times in his head, stomach, and neck by two masked terrorists early yesterday morning while guarding the entrance to Teneh Omarim near Beersheba. The attackers fled, taking with them his weapon.

Konstantin, who struggled with his assailants and alerted the settlement before collapsing from his wounds, was rushed to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. After day-long surgery he was listed last night in satisfactory condition.

By noon IDF troops had arrested four suspects in nearby Dahariya; but all were released after questioning. The search for the attackers continued.

The attackers left a bloody trail leading towards Dahariya, some four kilometers northwest of the settlement. The entrance of troops into the town was fully coordinated with the Palestinian Authority. Dahariya, in Area B, is due to fall under Palestinian control in the first phase of Israel's pullback.

Palestinian Preventive Security head Jabril Rajoub arrived in the area to observe the search and receive updates from Palestinian Authority officials who coordinated with the IDF. Soroka Hospital spokesman Barya Kuris

said Konstantin's condition was satisfactory after undergoing a series of operations since the early morning hours.

According to Amir Kitron, vice chairman of the regional council and a member of Teneh Omarim, Konstantin fought with his attackers and managed to fire three shots, wounding one of them, before summoning help over the settlement's communication system. "He managed to call out, 'I'm being stabbed,' before he collapsed," said Kitron.

"Within minutes, residents and the settlement's security guard arrived at the scene, having heard shots fired," said Kitron. Immediately the settlement's medical team started treating the soldier and after stabilizing his condition, put him in the ambulance and sped off towards Soroka Hospital, some 20 minutes away.

"On route they met up with a Magen David Adom mobile intensive care unit, which they had called," he said.

Two masks belonging to the attackers were found at the site, as well as two butcher knives. "One was a gorilla mask and another was a black knitted ski mask with openings just for the eyes," said Kitron.

The terrorists had entered the settlement through a hole in a fence, he said.

Konstantin's father, Shmuel, told reporters his son's knowledge of judo and karate helped him fight off his attackers. "Who knows what would have happened otherwise?" he said.

There were conflicting reports about the sequence of the attack, however. Soroka's Kuris earlier reported that Konstantin had also been shot in the knee, apparently by the terrorists using his rifle. This was later confirmed by Israel Radio. The IDF Spokesman last night confirmed that Konstantin's weapon had been fired and that apparently one attacker had been wounded, but said no further details would be released until an investigation is completed.

Teneh Omarim is situated in an area void of any Arab villages. "Our settlement is the buffer zone between Beersheba and the Arab villages surrounding Hebron," said Kitron. However, 24-hour guard duty is shared between residents and IDF soldiers, he said. The settlement, established 13 years ago, is home to 150 secular families, most of whose breadwinners work in Beersheba.

"We're not settlers, but a community," said Teneh Omarim secretary Moti Hershko. Noting that there had never been any terrorist attacks in the past, he added, "I hope this attack isn't a sign that things are about to change."

Protest halts Efrat construction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A group of Palestinians succeeded in halting excavation work on a plot of land known as Givat Hazayit on the outskirts of Efrat yesterday.

According to Efrat activist Josh Adler, 10 Palestinians arrived at the site around noon. They tried to stop the two bulldozers and threatened to kill one of the workers, he said.

Police and IDF troops arrived at the scene. Fearing an escalation, they forced the Palestinians from the site, and demanded that all work be stopped until they see a copy of a court order that authorizes the construction.

"It's ridiculous," said Adler. "They have seen the court order. Why

should we be forced to back off?" According to Adler, 400 houses are slated for construction, and the project has received all the necessary authorization and permits. "On the plot already is a school in its final stages of completion as well as 25 houses," he said.

In the past, he said, Palestinians from the surrounding villages petitioned the High Court claiming that settlers from Efrat were building on Palestinian land. "All their claims were rejected by the court, as all were proven to have been false," said Adler.

Meanwhile, bulldozers continued working on the security road in the western sector of Kiryat Arba yesterday. The area was declared a closed

military zone on Monday after 150 Palestinians rioted at the site and clashed with IDF soldiers. The Palestinians attempted to stop bulldozers clearing the way for a new security road. Later, the Palestinian Authority claimed that the bulldozers were tearing down vineyards, almond and olive groves.

Tzuriel Popovitch, spokesman of the Kiryat Arba local council, said that Monday's events had been unnecessary. According to Popovitch, an elderly Arab near the site started to calm him down but when Palestinian youngsters interfered, the two sides came to blows. "It was a great misunderstanding," he said.

Ministry wants olim societies to play bigger 'absorption' role

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Olim societies are being asked to play a major role in aiding in the integration of newcomers in the country, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday.

"We're looking for partners," Edelstein said at a study day for olim society activists in Jerusalem.

He said it had been decided to look beyond the local authorities and other official bodies with whom the ministry already works.

"Former prime minister Golda Meir once said: 'The Jewish Agency can't serve a glass of tea to an immigrant.' Even with the almost 700 workers we have at the Absorption Ministry, we don't imagine we can reach each every one of the 750,000 immigrants who came in the last big wave of immigration," said Edelstein, explaining the importance of the olim societies' anticipated role.

Absorption Ministry Director-General Gideon Shamir said that, despite serious budget cuts, one of this year's main goals will be working to realize the belief in "successful absorption as a way of increasing immigration to Israel."

This can be accomplished by fully integrating immigrants from the large wave of immigration in the '90s into Israeli society, he said. Edelstein said that the ministry is now sufficiently able to handle initial needs of immigrants, something that had not always been the case during the immigration boom

at the beginning of the decade. "Now we face the tougher questions," he said, particularly the immigrants' professional and social integration.

Edelstein noted the important achievements in the area of entrepreneurship for new immigrants, where there had been "hundreds of successes" in recent years. He recalled a visit he made recently to a grocery in Sderot established by immigrants which now employs eight of them.

Edelstein said he planned a meeting yesterday with the housing minister to discuss the plight of immigrants who came here in 1989, but who had been unable to make use of their housing rights, which are about to run out.

"We have to explain to them that we are not finished taking care of the needs of these immigrants," he said. "While we can't arrange for all the new immigrants to smile all the time and wake up each morning thanking the Absorption Ministry and the State of Israel — that will never happen — we can change many things for the better."

The Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday that 33,000 immigrants arrived in Israel from January to June, 1996, a 4.4 percent drop from the same period in 1995. Of these, 27,900 came from the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2,100 from North and South America, 1,700 from Europe, 800 from Africa and 450 from Asia.

Cheaper contraceptives would lower abortion rate, experts say

By ESTHER HECHT

The most effective way to reduce the number of abortions here is to include contraceptive devices in the

basket of services the health funds provide, according to experts who spoke before the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday. The added cost of the contracep-

tives would be offset by the drop in abortions the funds must pay for, they said.

The standard answer of the health funds — that they don't pay for preventive measures — is nonsense, because they do provide prevention in other areas, said Prof. Shlomo Mashiah, head of obstetrics and gynecology at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

The modern approach to contraception is to provide consultations in which individuals can choose the

devices best adapted to their lifestyles, but this isn't included in the basket of services either, said Dr. Ronny Shtrikshah, chairman of the Israel Family Planning Association (IFPA).

The way to figure the cost of providing consultation is to estimate the price — in monetary outlay and in human suffering — of not providing it, he added. The number of legal abortions per year — about 16,000 — has remained constant since 1989. There are also about 4,000 to 6,000

illegal abortions annually, according to the IFPA.

When a pregnancy does occur, the medical establishment must make termination easier for those who really need it, Mashiah said.

One of the absurdities of current practice, says committee chairman Yael Dayan (Labor), is that a girl up to the age of 18 is entitled to a legal abortion, but the health funds pay for the abortion only if she is under 17. In Dayan's view, the law should be changed.

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مركز من النجف

Yeltsin fires Russia gov't

By GREG MYRE

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, saying he was fed up with his floundering government, decreed yesterday that the entire cabinet would resign except for the prime minister and his first deputy.

Yeltsin's order said a new cabinet would be formed within a week. The move is intended to give Yeltsin a fresh start as he returns to work full-time after being sidelined for most of the past eight months with heart trouble and a bout of pneumonia.

The Russian leader said last week the country was "still struggling in a flood of problems" and he pledged major personnel changes and a new series of reforms to revive an economy that has been shrinking for six straight years.

"Everything will be all right. The government has a plan," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

But it remains unclear whether a change of faces in the Kremlin will lead to economic growth, an end to corruption and meaningful leadership as Russia continues to struggle. The economy is stalled with the transition from the failed Soviet system to a market system.

Yeltsin has repeatedly pledged to fix pressing problems, such as the millions of workers and pensioners who have gone unpaid for months,

but he has been unable to deliver.

"The presidential decree has come on top of an economic crisis deepening since last fall," said Grigory Yavlinsky, a prominent liberal lawmaker. "The president wants to take some steps following his recuperation that show him ... on top of things." But Yavlinsky warned that "a personnel reshuffle alone will solve neither economic issues, nor internal policy problems."

The prime minister and his first deputy, the newly appointed Anatoly Chubais, will retain their posts, according to government spokesman Igor Shabalin.

All other members of the cabinet will be required to resign, the decree stated. That would appear to include the more than 50 people who head federal ministries, agencies and departments.

Yeltsin's decree said he would streamline the government. For example, he plans to reduce the number of deputy prime ministers from the current 13, but did not give a figure.

Some figures in non-economic positions may be retained in the new cabinet. But Yeltsin was highly critical of his own administration in his nationally televised speech last week and he may be seeking to make a clean sweep.

before yesterday's announcement.

While Yeltsin will be seeking quick improvements to social and economic problems, he has also stressed the urgency of military reform, and Rodionov has been unable to make any headway since his appointment last summer.

Chubais, Yeltsin's chief of staff previously, is a youthful reformer sure to be a powerful figure in the new government.

Many Russians dislike Chubais for his role in the economic reforms, which many ordinary people blame for the country's woes. However, Western governments and bankers generally applaud Chubais as a highly competent administrator committed to developing a free-market system.

Valentin Yumashev, 39, a former journalist who helped Yeltsin write his memoirs, was named to replace Chubais as chief of staff yesterday. However, no other positions were filled immediately.

Yeltsin's decree appeared aimed at circumventing the hard-line parliament, which must approve the president's choice of a new prime minister, according to the constitution.

By keeping Chernomyrdin on the job, Yeltsin can reshuffle the rest of the cabinet without seeking approval from Communists and other opponents in parliament.

The cabinet was formed only eight months ago after Yeltsin won re-election in July to a four-year term.



A masked rebel guards fighter jets at the Albanian air force base at Kucove. The base fell into rebel hands on Monday as they took control of several southern towns, moving the insurgency to 85 kilometers from the capital, Tirana. (Reuters)

Rebels occupy Albania's political vacuum

News agencies

TIRANA — By proposing a coalition government, President Sali Berisha is counting on Albania's political forces to help rein in a swelling rebellion.

It's doubtful, however, that the opposition has the authority to persuade rebels to lay down their weapons.

The US State Department yesterday welcomed the agreement between Berisha and the opposition.

"We now strongly urge all parties in Albania to implement this agreement, to implement the amnesty, the cease-fire, and to work towards a formation of the new government," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "We were encouraged by the apparent decision of President Berisha today to begin to lift the state of emergency which was imposed, and we hope that leads very quickly to a rapid removal of the censorship provi-

sions put in place by the Albanian government just last week," he said.

However, the insurgency manifests Berisha's deep unpopularity, especially in the rebellious south, and also is clear evidence of Albania's political vacuum, a yawning hole the opposition has not been able to fill.

Pandeli Majko, the foreign affairs secretary of the largest opposition party, the Socialists, said the insurgents will not be won over easily.

"I am shocked," Majko said. "It looks as if they have lost trust in any political solution." On Sunday, Berisha gave in to opposition demands for new elections and a new government not exclusively composed of Democratic Party members. The 10 parties agreed to a program for national reconciliation, which includes an amnesty for rebels and a gradual lifting of the weeklong state of emergency.

While politicians cling to the

belief that a majority of Albanians approve of the agreement to reestablish order in the country, the unrest has continued to grow. Rebels have widened their control of towns in the wake of withdrawing army and police, taking over four more southern towns on Sunday and continuing to expand their territory up to yesterday.

"There are more contradictions every minute between what the politicians decide and what the people who are protesting want," said Brec Zogaj, a leading member of the opposition Democratic Alliance.

The rebellion was sparked by the failure of high-risk investment funds beginning in January, in which practically every Albanian family lost money.

In the public mind, Berisha's Democratic Party was deeply associated with the funds. The names of some investment companies appeared on Democratic Party campaign posters, and state television practically every night

reports on this or that ruling party leader attending the inauguration of a new factory operated by the funds.

The opposition parties, led by the Socialists that succeeded the country's hard-line communists, made political capital out of the collapse of the funds. Many, but not all, of the protesters at initial demonstrations were Socialist Party supporters.

For a time, the Socialists could harness the investors' frustration and channel it against Berisha. However, along with the other parties, they have accepted that he will remain on the political scene for now — even though protesters have demanded that he go.

"Political parties apparently are getting out of the game," Majko said. "It's a very grave situation, we don't have contact with our local leaders (in the south)." Plagued by disunity and an incoherent program, the opposition has yet to put forth a single leader — one who could challenge Berisha.

Sir Paul of Pop

LONDON (Reuters) — Paul McCartney, the Beatle who joked 30 years ago about smoking marijuana in the Buckingham Palace toilets, went back to see Queen Elizabeth yesterday to collect a knighthood for helping to revolutionize pop music.

The impish lad from Liverpool, one of the most successful songwriters in history, became Sir Paul in a centuries-old ceremony of pomp and solemnity. But outside the palace, it was just like the old days as central London was treated to the screaming adulation that marked Beatlemania in the 1960s.

Hundreds of tourists and die-hard fans of the Fab Four, wearing Beatles t-shirts and badges, gathered outside the palace gates for a glimpse of McCartney. As they waited they sang old Beatles songs and played Beatles cassettes on sound systems.

The crowds screamed as McCartney swept through the gates in his chauffeur-driven limousine and he answered with a thumbs-up.

On the way out he lowered the car window to smile and wave to the fans. His wife Linda, who is fighting breast cancer, and his four children were not with him. McCartney admitted he was very nervous before the ceremony but said it had been a great experience.



Sir Paul McCartney poses with his award yesterday at Buckingham Palace. (Reuters)

"Proud to be British, wonderful day and it's a long way from a little terrace (street) in Liverpool," he told reporters.

It was the second trip to Buckingham Palace for McCartney, 54, who has made an estimated £400 million (NIS2 billion) fortune from his talent for bal-

lads such as *Yesterday* and catchy pop songs like *Band on the Run*. Along with the other Beatles, McCartney collected an MBE (Member of the British Empire) medal in 1965 — and shocked the stuffy British establishment by joking that the band had smoked marijuana in the palace toilets.

White House firm on China lobbying cash

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House refused to back down yesterday in a public spat with the FBI over the handling of information that China might be trying to influence US elections with campaign contributions.

The White House insists the FBI restricted the information to two National Security Council officials. But the FBI says there was "no restriction whatsoever" on the information-op the chain of command.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said yesterday the FBI's statement is erroneous. He said it was possible the national security aides misunderstood the ground rules when they were briefed. The two officials "made a conscious decision about how to handle information that they were given," he said.

This latest twist in the furor surrounding foreign political donations to the Democratic Party occurred

Monday as a member of Congress said the FBI told her as early as 1991 that the Chinese government was interested in making campaign contributions to sway lawmakers.

China said yesterday it is too principled and too poor to waste money on US elections.

The row came as Senate Republicans prepared to authorize an investigation into illegal fundraising during the 1996 presidential and congressional campaigns.

Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi apparently were among a small circle of lawmakers wanted to look out for approaches from the Chinese, including campaign gifts that might be passed through intermediaries.

Clinton ordered an investigation into why he wasn't told when the FBI passed similar warnings to two National Security Council aides last June.

Gunman storms Detroit bank, kills four

DETROIT (AP) — A gunman shouting religious passages opened fire at a bank yesterday, killing four people before he was shot dead by police.

The man shot one person outside a Comerica bank branch, then stormed inside and started firing, Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon said.

Two of the dead were shot inside the bank as an employee hit an alarm, McKinnon said.

"It appears as if we have a person who walked in to kill," McKinnon said.

The gunman then grabbed a hostage, ran outside and shot the hostage before he exchanged fire with police and was killed, McKinnon said. No police officers were injured.

Inside the bank, the man was shouting religious passages and asking people to recite the Lord's Prayer. Deputy Chief Beny

Napoleon said. McKinnon initially described the shootings as an attempted bank robbery but later said it was not. "We are in the process of investigating to see if in fact there is the possibility of someone else being involved," McKinnon said.

LETTER

Continued from Page 1

I had requested permission and intended to fly President Arafat myself, in Jordan's official State Tristar, to the Palestinian airport of Gaza as I had requested earlier, during my Hebrew intervention, to fly by a fixed wing aircraft, accepting your refusal then only

BLOODSHED

Continued from Page 1

of hapless Palestinians from theirs, and their ancestors, homeland and bury the peace process for all times."

"On the question of your withdrawal from territories you have committed Israel, before the US, Jordan, and the world to complete the process by mid-1998, what good did it serve to offer such an insignificant first phase withdrawal? Why the apparent continued deliberate humiliation of your so called Palestinian partners? Can any worthwhile relationship thrive in the absence of mutual respect and trust?"

In response, Netanyahu writes, "We cannot make the Jordanian-Israeli relationship hostage to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track. We cannot give every Palestinian-Israeli impose the power to hurt our own relationship."

Netanyahu rebuts Hussein's claims that last week's cabinet decision on a pullback in the West Bank was insignificant.

because there were far more important issues at hand.

I anticipated your positive response this time. I believed it would have helped improve the atmosphere considerably, but alas, it was not to be. Now, suppose I had taken off nonetheless for Gaza, in the full right of a friend, then would you have ordered my fellow pilots in the Israeli Air Force — those who escorted me on the same aircraft over Israel in what became known

as the 'First Flight of Peace' — it seems so long ago — to prevent me forcibly from landing or worse?

You will never know how close you came to having to make a decision on the subject had I, on this occasion, not planned to carry guests back home. How can I work with you as a partner and true friend in this confused and confusing atmosphere when I sense an intent to destroy all I worked to build between our peoples and states. Snubboness over

sages. We talked about the situation now and the future. Just as he had in his visit to Egypt in December, Mordechai was able to forge a rapport with the Jordanian leadership. Mordechai said his private talk with the king, which had been scheduled for just a quarter of an hour but stretched to over 50 minutes, was very warm and friendly. "Things which [King Hussein] told me in private certainly strengthened in me that the peace between us is so strong and stable and based on faith and interests and good relations that no one can bother it."

Liat Collins adds: After news of the letter spread through the Knesset, opposition MKs launched an attack on Netanyahu yesterday, while he was in Moscow. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "The prime minister has turned into a strategic threat on the security and wellbeing of the state. He has completely lost the confidence of even those who were happy he was elected."

Several MKs submitted urgent motions to the agenda on the letter.

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Strategic depth

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat claims there is a "deep crisis" in Palestinian-Israeli relations. It is a crisis of his own making, without real justification. If it becomes violent, Arafat must not be allowed to succeed in shifting the blame to Israel for the collapse of peace process, as he did after the violence in September.

The violent riots surrounding the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit were the legacy of a previous phase in the diplomacy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government: the unilateral phase. At that time, Netanyahu thought he could dictate events - he would decide when to meet with Arafat, when to withdraw from Hebron, and when to take controversial steps concerning Jerusalem.

Arafat succeeded in putting an end to Netanyahu's unilateralist phase when he sparked the violence in September and diverted all the blame on Netanyahu. At that time, Arafat's grievance that the process had reached a dead end rang true enough to bring global condemnation on Israel's head.

Netanyahu extracted himself from this full-court press only through intense negotiations, ending with not only a commitment to leave most of Hebron, but also to Oslo's three further withdrawals.

Along the way, however, Netanyahu began to leave his cabinet behind him. By handcuffing himself to Oslo, Netanyahu got the world temporarily off his back, but at the price of alienating much of his own cabinet. Netanyahu's solution was to unveil a new approach: the pairing phase.

Controversial decisions would be balanced against each other. Netanyahu would build a Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa in Jerusalem; but this decision would be balanced with a substantial, not symbolic, first-of-three Oslo withdrawals.

So far, so good. The only problem is that the Palestinians are not playing along. Rather than considering the proposed Israeli withdrawal from 9 percent of the territories (including 2 percent from Area C) as adequate payment for Har Homa, the Palestinians added it to their list of grievances. According to the Palestinians, the withdrawal should not have been determined by Israel unilaterally and should have encompassed about 30 percent of the territory. Neither interpretation has any basis within Oslo, even according to the United States, which has publicly called the withdrawal "credible."

The reason for the failure of Netanyahu's new pairing technique to move forward smoothly is not hard to understand. Two unilateral acts, even if they are within Israel's rights and are meant to balance each other, do not add up to an agreement with the Palestinians. And it is natural for the Palestinians not to accept without opposition Israel's interpretation of what should

satisfy their interests. It is also fair, however, for Israel to expect that there will be no repetition of the violent reaction in September, which was not justified at that time, and would be much less so now that Israel has taken numerous concrete steps to cement its commitment to the process.

If anything, it is Israel, not the Palestinians, who should be feeling "humiliated" at its partner's lack of commitment to the spirit of Oslo. Since the Hebron agreement was signed, Israel has taken the painful and politically problematic steps of releasing Palestinian women prisoners and announcing a further withdrawal from an area that is larger than the Gaza Strip. In this period, Israel has violated neither the letter, nor the spirit of Oslo, and has been trying to negotiate with Palestinians further outstanding issues of Oslo in numerous committees.

The Palestinians, for their part, have shown no public willingness to fulfill any of the commitments they made in the Hebron Accord, which are in any case simply reiterations of commitments made in Oslo. Is Israel the only side that must show good will, build trust, and engage in confidence-building measures?

On top of this, there is another problem with the pairing technique: It satisfies neither the Palestinians nor the rightist opposition within Netanyahu's coalition. In fact, by clearly trying to please both sides, it reinforces the impression that the government will bow to pressure.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who knows a thing or two about dealing with pressure, voted against Netanyahu in the cabinet for the first time on the proposed withdrawal. He did so, not on the grounds of specifics, but because of a lack of strategy. "Whoever draws up a strategy will be the winner, and whoever bases his approach on tactical steps alone acts on the basis of pressure, and will lose in the end," Sharansky told *The New York Times*.

The formation of a strategy is not a panacea. In principle, strategy is neither necessary nor sufficient to resist pressure. According to an interview with MK Yossi Beilin in *Ha'aretz*, neither Yitzhak Rabin nor Shimon Peres had much of a strategy, yet they did not face the kind of pressures that surround the Netanyahu government.

Rabin and Peres had the good fortune of implementing the easier part of Oslo - withdrawing from the main concentrations of Arab population, without impinging on Israeli settlements or even formally giving up sovereignty. As Israel approaches the gut-wrenching final status issues, it is dangerous to rely on nimble tactics to extract the nation from each briar patch as it comes along.

So long as the Netanyahu government has no clear destination, let alone a strategy for getting us there, it will attract and be susceptible to pressure from all sides.

Your rightists or mine?



Without Jerusalem...

The hullabaloo worldwide over Israel's enormity in deciding to build a housing project in its capital city should send an urgent warning to Israel's political leaders. They and their predecessors have persistently failed to confront the part played by the Christian world, not to mention traditional antisemitism, in supporting the Moslem Arabs' monstrous claim to "ownership" of Jerusalem.

One of the great changes effected by the rise of Zionism, and accelerated by the establishment of the Jewish state, was the transference, by and large, of the thrust of antisemitism from the individual Jew as a non-person to the Jew as an equal, with a national state like everybody else.

Most acutely hostile to Zionism has been the Catholic Church, for whom the central element in the situation created by restored Jewish sovereignty has been the fear of Jewish dominion over Jerusalem.

It is a real and understandable fear. Jewish rule over the Christian holy places constitutes a direct challenge to the almost preternatural assertion that (because of the Jews' rejection of Jesus) no Jewish polity would or could ever arise again in Jerusalem.

If, as in 1967, the church found itself confronted by actual Jewish rule in Jerusalem, it has naturally sought ways and means to break that hold. This does not mean that other Christian denominations have not been similarly guilty (remember how they all "stood by" when the Arabs in the Old City under Jordan systematically ravaged ancient Jewish graveyards and destroyed every synagogue in sight).

But in this respect a vast gulf separates the religious establishment from the lay masses. Indeed, among Israel's good friends are devout Christians of all denominations. This generation, moreover, has seen the growth of a great movement in non-mainstream Christianity which has become a redoubtable ally in Israel's struggle with its many enemies. It does not, however, command the corridors of power.

On the morrow of the Holocaust, the Christian nations, among them those who had refused to help save Jews - who could have been saved - from the Nazi inferno, agreed at the newly formed United Nations to sponsor the establishment of a tiny Jewish state in a part of Palestine.

Excluded from the envisaged sovereignty was the city of Jerusalem, the time-hallowed

SHMUEL KATZ

...not an iota would change in any Moslem's life. But can you imagine Christianity, or the life of any conscious Jew, without Jerusalem?

refused and continue to refuse to recognize Israel's right to Jerusalem.

They all know the Bible, which dramatically records, and presages, the centrality of the city throughout Jewish history; which reflects its passionate relationship, going back 3,000 years, not only with the Jewish nation, but with the Jewish individual, his daily life and occasions.

Yet neither the Bible nor the modern mandate for Palestine which reaffirmed that unique historic connection in legal terms; neither logic, nor common decency, nor even - now in the US - the decision of the legislature to transfer its embassy to Israel's capital has been strong enough to overcome the prejudice of executive government.

The most brilliant maneuver of official America and of the European countries in promoting their own prejudice has been simply to ignore the unimpeachable Jewish truth, and to embrace the fantastic hoax of a Moslem religious overruling right and an Arab overruling political claim.

They have actively and relentlessly collaborated with the Arabs in injecting a flagrantly rootless mendacity into ongoing history which, they insist, must supersede the Jewish truth.

It was an American president who, when Israel had regained the Old City of Jerusalem from the Jordanians, described it as "occupied Arab territory." Persistent propaganda has widely planted the notion that Jerusalem is "a city holy to three faiths." Even the pope, in a recent speech, repeated

this grotesque untruth. Nobody, from the pope downward, through calculating politicians and tendentious media down to the last Arab propagandist, has been able to produce a single text in the Holy Koran containing even a mention of Jerusalem's name; nor any happening in history since then, to accord the remotest justification for this claim.

Without Jerusalem not an iota would be changed in the texture of Islam, or in the personal life of the Arab or any other Moslem. He would continue to pray in the direction of Mecca, as he has always done.

But can you imagine Christianity without Jerusalem? Can one even conceive Judaism, or the daily life of any conscious Jew, if his Jerusalem were removed from his orbit?

The enormity of the sin envisaged by the Christian collaborators of the Moslems was reflected in the pithy summing up by the British (Christian) writer and historian, Christopher Sykes:

"To the Moslems," he wrote "it is not Jerusalem but a certain site in Jerusalem, which is venerated... the majestic Dome of the Rock. To a Moslem, there is a profound difference between Jerusalem and Mecca or Medina. The latter are holy places containing holy sites. Apart from the hallowed rock, Jerusalem has no major Islamic significance."

It has often been suggested that the American promotion of the Arab-Moslem claim was born of the usual moral considerations - petrodollars, oil, Saudi Arabian and other Arab markets. This, however, does not tell the whole story. There is much earlier testimony which must be recalled.

When in 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration and asked US President Wilson to subscribe to it, he was advised by secretary of state Robert Lansing not to do so: "Many Christian sects and individuals," he wrote, "would undoubtedly resent turning the Holy Land over to the absolute control of the race credited with the death of Christ..."

It is not enough for Israel to reassert its exclusive sovereignty in Jerusalem. What our government must make clear is its absolute refusal to countenance any interference in the execution of that right - no less than the US in Washington, the UK in London, or Saudi Arabia in Riyadh or Mecca.

The writer's biography of Ze'ev Jabotinsky has been published in English.

Who's immune?

TEDDY PREUSS

The Likud didn't invent hostility to the media. Ben-Gurion in his time attacked two newspaper editors. He called one a snake, and the other a fool - and this was before the Lavon Affair, when he got really bet up over the media.

Golda Meir talked about "the daily cup of poison" the media served up. In Yitzhak Rabin's first term as premier, his supporters claimed TV's satirical *Cleaning the head* brought him down.

Yet none of this compares with Likud government battles with the media.

Prime minister Menachem Begin once advised his TV interviewers "to hold onto your red notebooks." He was alluding to the charge that the press was dominated by a "leftist Mafia."

Defense minister Ariel Sharon frequently complained about "the tyranny of the media," while deputy finance minister Yehzekel Flumin demanded that only officially recognized journalists be permitted to publish. Several MKs even demanded that journalists who published "incorrect" reports be tried and jailed.

All Netanyahu and his benchmen have done is increase the volume and intensity of attacks. They have charged that journalism is the only profession where you aren't required to have prior formal training; that journalists aren't held accountable; that when editorial boards or the Press Council (rarely) reprimand them, no punishment is attached.

They forget that Israel has one of the most draconian libel laws in the free world, to which public figures, like anyone else, have recourse, and overlook the fact that when a journalist is inexact, or guilty of a real smear, the damage is significantly less

Is it the press or the politicians who go unpunished for their excesses?

than that of a physician who diagnoses wrongly, a surgeon who leaves a clamp inside his patient, a pilot who makes a miscalculation, or even a plumber who forgets to close off a pipe.

They also tend to forget that, unlike ministers and other politicians, "media tyrants" have no means of imposing their "tyranny." They lack the power to invade Lebanon, raise taxes, and open tunnel exits, leading to riots.

The media can only rail against such actions; and our democratically-elected politicians don't have to pay attention.

The biggest lie is the one that says only journalists go unpunished for their failures.

True, only rarely is a journalist fired for carelessness or for intentional libel, and he cannot be deprived of his press card.

But how many physicians actually have their licenses revoked for professional neglect, botching operations, or diagnosing wrongly? Ditto how many lawyers, teachers (except when they sleep with their students), drivers, private investigators, or other professionals?

Rather, it is politicians and senior officials who enjoy special immunity.

YEAR in, year out, the State Comptroller's Report lists, ad nauseam, the latest crop of illegal acts, excesses of authority, insensitive behavior, sheer neglect and stupidity perpetrated by ministers and other public servants.

How many of these miscreants have ever been fired or brought before administrative tribunals?

Ministers and public officials suspected of criminal acts are often put on trial. But the number of public servants suspected of "political" or "administrative" misdemeanors and brought to trial is much smaller than the number of journalists who have been reprimanded by their editors or by the Journalists Association, or who have been charged and tried for libel.

Just as the public can "punish" an erring politician by withholding its vote, so it can punish an irresponsible newspaper by not buying it.

Quite a number of readers have cancelled subscriptions to papers they perceive as being "too left," "too right," or "too pomographic."

Canceling a newspaper subscription is every bit as drastic a vote of no confidence as not voting for a politician or a party that has "sold out on Eretz-Israel" or "unjustifiably" raised taxes.

The writer is a veteran journalist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MONSTER

Sir - Three years ago on a visit to New York someone asked me why I had moved to Israel. I replied that while observance of the Sabbath in the work place is guaranteed by law in the United States, I did not need to be caught in a situation where a person who did not observe Shabbat and had waited many years to get enough seniority to get Saturday off, might be bumped from his Saturday day off so that I might observe the Sabbath. In Israel businesses are closed on Saturday and therefore that could not happen.

The monster is following me! This past Friday I saw an ad in *The Jerusalem Post* for a company seeking a salesperson who must be willing to work on Shabbat.

LIVING MONUMENT

Laws preventing Shabbat opening of stores must be enforced and must cover areas outside of the cities (such as industrial zones). We can not allow the situation where we need legislation to protect for Shabbat observers the right to work.

The Israeli market place is just so big. If all of the stores are closed on Saturday, the same amount of buying will be done in six days instead of seven. Twenty years ago, people complained about not being able to go on trips because there were no buses on Saturday. Now they will not have any complaints because mommy or daddy will have to work on Shabbat anyway!

DAVID M. ARLAN
Rehovot.

NO MOUNTAIN

Sir - "Har Homa," the hottest name in the news, is neither a mountain nor a wall. (In Hebrew "Homa" means a massive wall in a city or fortress). The name Har Homa was given to it by the commanders of Israel's No. 16 Jerusalem Brigade. The disputed site is a round hill with a small stone fence which was part of the Arab Legion front against southern Jerusalem. The trenches of the Legion can still be seen on the site.

From this ridge of hills stretching to Beit Jalla, the Arab Legion shelled the city during the War of Independence. President Mubarak, who harshly criticized Israel's aggressive stand on Jerusalem,

seems to have forgotten that in the same war, Egypt sent an invading force. In May 1948, this force, including tanks, reached Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, adjoining Talpiot just one mile from Har Homa. In the ensuing battles, the Kibbutz changed hands, was destroyed and finally recaptured.

The hill itself was never cultivated, serving as grazing ground, as its Arabic name "Jabl-el-Ranem" implies. Seventy-five percent of the expropriated area is in Jewish ownership.

ELIJAHU TAL
Tel Aviv.

BIBES FOR CONVERSIONS

Sir - The shocking scandal of bribes in return for conversions to Judaism reveals a terrible situation. Orthodox religious authorities on the one hand refuse to recognize non-Orthodox converts and, on the other, refuse to allow large numbers of sincere and serious people to convert. This squeeze has led to the corruption we have seen.

Rooting out corrupt officials will be a start, but such efforts need to be followed by efforts to ensure that a much larger number of people who wish to convert be allowed to do so.

LAWRENCE J. EPSTEIN,
PH.D.

Stony Brook, New York.

ACT OF TERROR

Sir - I've heard of plans to erect a monument to the memory of the 73 soldiers killed in the helicopter disaster. I would like to suggest that instead of a monument - of which there are already so many, and most of them an eyesore - a public garden or park should be dedicated to their memory.

A monument is a dead thing, a garden is a living thing. The Louis Promenade on the Carmel is a splendid example of such a living monument dedicated by parents to the memory of their son.

Haifa, for example, is full of green wadis that could easily be turned into public parks. A plain stone - in some central position in the park - inscribed with the names of the 73, is all that is required to perpetuate their memory. To such a place people would come, relax, and remember.

H. SOPHER

Haifa.

ACT OF TERROR

Sir - The media has a responsibility to give the facts regarding the threats of violence and infatidat that are being used constantly against the people of Israel by the Palestinian Authority. The project at Har Homa was approved by two previous governments of Israel. It is vitally necessary to provide housing to both the Jewish and Arab populations.

Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian Jerusalem leader and other Palestinian leaders used threats of violence to force Israel to abandon the safety and security of its citizens. Israel pursues peace but no sovereign nation can be under threat all the time. It is an act of terror to constantly threaten terror.

TOBY WILLIG
Forest Hills, N.Y.

הכרזת האו"ם

GRAPEVINE

Hospital benefit a 'Dutch treat'

By GREER FAY CASPIAN

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the overwhelming majority of foreign missions are not located in the capital, most foreign diplomats whose children are born in Israel prefer to have them delivered in Jerusalem, and those that do usually opt for Misgav Ladach hospital. Among them are Dutch Ambassador Christiana Kroner and her wife Harriet, who soon after the birth of their first child, a daughter, hosted a Misgav Ladach benefit dinner and concert at their Herzliya Pituah residence.

That would explain why Dr. Michael Stark, the hospital's medical director and head of its gynecology and obstetrics department arrived a day early. No, he didn't confuse the dates on his calendar, he just wanted to check on the baby. He was back again the following night along with a host of other dignitaries who included Leah Rabin, shipping magnate Eli Schalit and his wife Ana; Professor Ali Qleibo, Palestinian Authority delegate to Japan and his wife Helena, the former Costa Rican ambassador to Israel; Dr. Michael Levin, dean of the Bezalel Academy; Dr. Ali Masri,

not in the same political camp as most of the other invitees, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was also on hand to join the celebrations.

A JERUSALEM landmark for nearly 60 years, Cafe Atara, closed last year to make way for Burger King. When Uri Greenspan, grandson of Atara's founder, pledged to open another outlet close to the famous eatery's original site, few people really believed him. But true to his promise, he's opening up next month just a block away from his old stomping ground on the ruins of Cafe Alno, another famous capital landmark which closed soon after Atara.

THE CUTS that Jerusalem Post business editor Amotz Asa-Eli usually has in mind are of a fiscal nature. But last Sunday, his mind was on the unkindest cut of all when he and his wife Nurit celebrated the circumcision of their son Aviad. To his credit, the baby went through the ordeal like a true hero of Israel and hardly made a peep.

WELL KNOWN though he may be, Harrison Ford had a few uncomfortable moments when he went to the bank to make a withdrawal and

WHEN Brandeis University President Dr. Jehuda Reinharz talks about the American Jewish community, he sounds like a doctor trying to get a patient to give up smoking: he knows what the problem is, he just has to get his patient to do something about it.

As head of the prestigious Jewish-sponsored but non-sectarian university, recently voted number one in a poll of US universities (excluding Ivy League ones), Reinharz feels uniquely qualified to make a prognosis, and equally determined to see to it that the patient heeds his advice. Coughing his concern in Biblical terms, Reinharz, the first Israeli-born president of a major US university, speaks of "the three makot," or plagues, that threaten American Jewry: drift, irrelevance and barriers.

Too many are "simply drifting away," he says, with committed Jews more interested in volunteering for non-Jewish causes than Jewish ones, and non-committed Jews lost because "when a Jew says he wants to go to synagogue on the High Holidays, we say: 'Only with a ticket.'"

He insists the way to overcome the irrelevance of Judaism to so many American Jews is "to make Judaism meaningful. What we have to figure out is how to get into the head of the new generation," whether that means via CDs, the Internet, or through providing more content to those Jews who are interested.

Lastly, he believes "we've placed barriers in the way of other Jews becoming Jews," and argues that we must "do everything we can" to try to bring in as many people as possible into the Jewish fold because, quite simply, "looking at it from a standpoint of Klal Yisrael, we can't afford to lose anyone else."

Offering figures to back his concern about the threat to American Jewry's future, he notes that in the 1960's, American Jewry totaled 3.3% of the American population. Today that figure has slumped to 2.1%. "We don't replace ourselves," he says, adding, "Being married to a Jew in the US is no guarantee for continuity."

There are, no doubt, what he calls "pockets of strength," places like his own university, which has (together with Hadassah) established the first International Research Center on Jewish Women, and has the largest, most comprehensive Judaica facility outside of Israel. Of its 2,900 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students, 60 percent are Jewish, and even non-Jews attending find that "the Judaic



Reinharz: 'Three plagues threaten American Jewry: drift, irrelevance and barriers.'

Brandeis University president Dr. Jehuda Reinharz, prescribes cures for the problems ailing American Jewry. Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

aspect of learning permeates" their studies, according to Reinharz. Reinharz also talks of the attempts by American Jewry to "find a renaissance in one way or another," expressed in increased interest in adult education, day schools, and summer camps. But he's still wor-

He believes that in fact this is partly an excuse cited for a drop in interest in Israel, and that there are other, new problems to be confronted at home. One of the largest is the rise of Islam in the US. Whereas in 1960 there were only 100,000 people identifying themselves as Muslims in America, today that figure has spiraled to 6-8,000,000. Fourteen percent of all immigrants to the US today are Muslims, and more people in the US convert to Islam than any other religion. It's "no coincidence" that President Bill Clinton recently went to pay homage to the Muslim community after the Ramadan fast, says Reinharz.

Drive through many major US cities, and you'll be struck by the increasing number of mosques, he says. "We have to wake up and realize Judaism is not one of the major religions in the US," he says, noting that the improved political position for Muslims engendered by these numbers "will have political implications for Israel."

Reinharz's strategy for dealing with the rise of Islam in the US is "to become informed. We have to try to forge alliances with the Muslim community." He does not believe that community is at heart fundamentalist, and believes American Jews and Muslims have some points

"We have to try to forge alliances with the Moslem community."

in common. "The Muslims are also worried about assimilation and discrimination," he says.

PRESERVING THE American Jewish community means strengthening its Jewish identity, and one of the pillars of that identity has been

Israel. While citing figures showing that more than half of American Jews have never been to Israel, Reinharz is critical of the job that's been done with those who have come, especially young people.

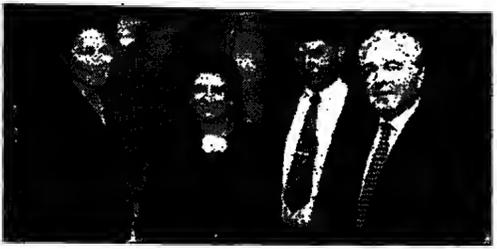
"There are very few good programs," he says. "We need a revolution in the way we conceive of what makes Israel attractive to young people from abroad... I believe everyone who comes to Israel, unless they're dead from the shoulders up, can't not feel impacted. But this fades with time. It can't be done as a one-time shot in the arm," says Reinharz, 52, who was born in Haifa and emigrated with his family first to Germany, then to the US.

Specifically, he says, "we need content," and those planning the programs should stop selling them based on the exotic hikes offered, and more on the types of texts that will be studied.

Reinharz, who is on the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, the executive committee and board of the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Holocaust Museum board, is convinced that we must build "institutional connections" between Israel and the American Jewish community. To that end he is extremely excited about the Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life being set up between Brandeis and the Jerusalem Foundation. The program will have two centers, in Waltham, the university's home town, and in Jerusalem. Reinharz, the first alumnus of Brandeis to become its president, hopes such programs will contribute to creating more "permanence" in that relationship.

"Are we one?" he asks, quoting an old campaign used recently by one major Jewish organization. "We've never been one." Jewish history is marked by a fragmented approach, he says, and we should stop trying so hard to "keep people out, and try instead to bring them in. As an example, he notes the high cost of day schools which is keeping young Jews from sending their children to them. "Why not make it possible for everyone to go?" he asks. "We have the money, but not the will."

Still, Reinharz is optimistic that uncommitted Jews can be reached, some through projects like "The Genesis Program." This new course of study, funded largely by Steven Spielberg, aims at bringing high school children "detached" from their Judaism to Brandeis, where they will integrate their other interests with Judaism, and has already received hundreds of applicants. Such projects, he believes, are just what the doctor ordered for American Jewry.



From right to left: Dutch Ambassador Kroner, Dr. Stark, Leah Rabin and Mrs. Kroner.

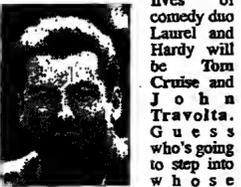
adviser to the PNA's Ministry of Health, and Yedida Lahav, whose grandfather was one of the founders of Misgav Ladach. The Kroners have previously hosted kosher catered functions in support of Misgav Ladach, Ben-Issie Shapiro, and other worthwhile causes.

the teller failed to recognize him. When the teller asked for some ID, Ford had nothing with him to prove his identity. Wanting to be helpful, the teller asked Ford to name his best on-screen friend in Star Wars. Ford promptly supplied the correct answer and was able to make his transaction.

BOTH THE bride and the mother of the groom wore white when Tali Patishi married Yuval Rabin at the D a o Accadia Hotel last Friday. The hotel's tennis courts have for years been frequented by Leah Rabin, and the late Yitzhak Rabin used to play there as well. Because this marriage was the second time around for both, the bride nixed the idea of a wedding gown and chose to wear a pants suit, which, though it didn't quite go with her tiered veil, was a concession to tradition. Limited to some 40 relatives and close friends, the guest list was top heavy with Yitzhak Rabin's closest political and military cronies, such as Eitam Haber, Shimon Peres, Danny Yatom, Ephraim Speh, Haim Ramon, Ehud Barak, Ya'acov Peri, Taddy Kolek and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. While



THE STARS OF the projected film on the lives of comedy duo Laurel and Hardy will be Tom Cruise and John Travolta. Guess who's going to step into whose shoes?



Laurel and Hardy? Tom Cruise (left) and John Travolta.

ous years together without the benefit of marriage, Farrah Fawcett, 50, and Ryan O'Neal, 55, have decided to call it quits. Previously married to Lee Majors, Fawcett took up with O'Neal, once a close friend of Majors's, when the latter asked him to look after her while he was away. The Fawcett/O'Neal union produced a son, 12, and lots of fights provoked by O'Neal's frequent dalliances with other tinsel-town lovelies. The couple have split up before. But the current rift, they say, is for keeps.

PARENTING

Getting your child into the homework habit

By RUTH MASON

My nine-year-old won't do his homework. What can I do?

Tom Gumpel, PhD, lecturer, department of special education, School of Education, Hebrew University, answers:

Israeli teachers tend to give a lot of homework and homework will not go away. Your child needs to realize this.

Until your son can do his homework independently, it may be necessary for a parent or someone else to sit with him while he does his homework. If it is a parent who does this, it is important that it be the parent who has the least rocky, most solid relationship with the child, not just the parent who hap-

pened to be home at the time. Keep it calm. If it's going to be confrontational, it will be detrimental. If doing homework together turns into a source of friction, you should consider getting a private tutor, a "big brother" or a high-school student to do it with the child.

Any time there are homework problems, it is important to discuss it with the child at a time when there is no homework involved, and to come to some kind of general understanding that there is a problem and together you need to think of ways to solve it. The worst time to have this discussion is while the child is trying to do homework.

You need to agree on a set time to do homework. Don't wait until

7 p.m. when he comes back from judo. He'll be too tired. It's best to give the child some time to eat and relax a bit when he comes home from school. It must be clear that homework then comes instead of any other privilege. If he doesn't do his homework, the privileges will wait. It's often a good idea to make a behavioral contract with the child. Most children in Israel get homework five days a week. Post a calendar on the fridge and have the child mark an "X" on each day that he has done his homework. And reward his successes. Arrange the contract so that success is attainable at the very begin-

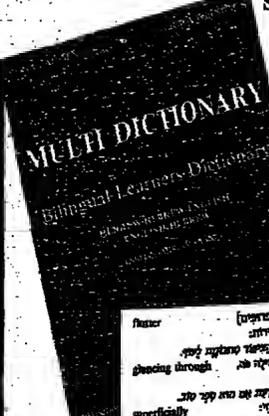
ning. In other words, let the initial criteria be a little too easy, because you need to hook your fish. You might offer a small reward for every two days of homework done.

Before you start a homework session, it's a good idea to go through the assignments with the child and set up the order in which the work will be done. One helpful trick is to put two empty bowls in front of the child, count out the number of problems or questions he has to do and place that number of marbles in one bowl. Each time he finishes a problem, he takes a marble out of the full bowl and puts it in the empty one. You can also use jelly beans or M&Ms and let the child eat them when he finishes the problems. Kids love this.

Children only learn internal control after having external control built around them. Your presence, the contract and the marbles act as a kind of a scaffold for your child. Once he's in the swing of things, you can start to gradually remove some of these external controls.

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BUSINESS

in brief

February trade deficit at \$681m.

Israel's trade deficit totalled \$681 million in February, according to figures the Central Bureau of Statistics published yesterday. This compares to \$660m. last month and \$983m. in February 1996.

Imports stood at \$2.3 billion, with exports bringing in \$1.6b. These figures do not include trade with the Palestinian Authority.

The decline in imports (excluding ships, airplanes, diamonds and fuel) that began in mid-1996 has continued. Between October and February, imports fell 0.8 percent a month, which represents a 9% annual rate. This is, however, a slower decline than the monthly 1.1% to 1.4% registered between May and September.

Meanwhile, exports increased a monthly 0.3% from October, against a 0.7% rise between May and August.

The overall deficit has shrunk some 2.3% a month of late, compared to a monthly 4.5% drop in the first half of last year. *David Harris*

No Gazprom meetings for PM

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is not meeting representatives of RAO Gazprom during his visit to Russia, his spokesman Shai Bazak told the *Jerusalem Post* last night.

Media reports yesterday suggested Netanyahu would meet the chairman of the world's largest gas producer with a view to signing a deal to supply gas to Israel. *David Harris*

Ice-cream tariff vote postponed

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday postponed its vote on imposing levies on ice-cream imports, while it waits for responses from the relevant ministries.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Agriculture Ministry director-general Danny Krichman met in Jerusalem yesterday to discuss the issue.

As part of its policy of exposing the Israeli economy to foreign competition, the Treasury has lifted restrictions on ice-cream imports, but the Agriculture Ministry is backing farmers' claims that this is having a damaging effect on the domestic dairy industry.

The committee will vote in the coming days on a proposal from MK Shalom Simhon (Labor) to recommend the Treasury tax imported ices.

The suggestion has received widespread support from coalition MKs. *David Harris*

COMPANY RESULTS

Elbit's revenues down 41%

Elbit Ltd. reported \$33.6 million in sales for 1996, compared to \$57.4m. in 1995.

Net losses for the year remained steady at \$11.3m.

The company said the drop in revenue was the result of continued losses in the company's television division. Elbit, which also manufactures telecommunications equipment, is currently debating the future of the division.

The company's fourth-quarter sales totalled \$10m. in 1996, the same figure for the corresponding period one year ago.

Net losses for the quarter were down from \$4.8m. last year to \$3.4m. in the fourth quarter of 1996.

This was the first time since Elbit's demerger in which the company filed independent quarterly results.

In November, Elbit Ltd. spun-off into three independently traded companies. Elbit Systems Ltd. and Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., manufacture defense and medical equipment, respectively. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Makhteshim-Agan net up sharply

Makhteshim-Agan, Koor's chemical arm, announced a 462 percent growth in fourth-quarter net profits to \$5 million, compared to \$0.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

The fourth-quarter improvement was mainly due to a one-time revenue of \$4m. resulting from a compromise agreement between Agan and the Brom group.

Net profits in 1996 increased 23% to \$30.4m., compared with \$24.8m. for 1995. Sales grew 22% last year to \$547.1m., compared with \$449.4m. in 1995.

Operating profits rose 24% in 1996 to \$62.3m.

Fourth-quarter sales increased 45% to \$130.9m. In the fourth quarter of the year, operating earnings jumped 2,254%, to \$9.4m. compared to \$0.4m. in the same period last year.

Makhteshim said 1996 marks a turnaround in the company's performance.

In the reported period, the group acquired three overseas companies and established a South American subsidiary in Argentina. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Morgan Stanley admits Koor purchase error

Wall Street firm bought 1.8% of Koor, not 8.77%

By DAVID HARRIS

The Morgan Stanley Group purchased only a 1.8 percent share in Koor Industries, and not 8.77% as was announced on Wall Street on Monday.

"There was an inaccuracy in the conversion rate," said company spokesman John Diat, admitting the error.

According to the company, it incorrectly filed the transaction with the stock exchange register and regulator - the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The error was in the conversion of American depositary receipts, which several funds in Morgan Stanley's asset management unit pur-

chased, into ordinary shares.

Morgan Stanley actually purchased some 1.3 million ADRs, rather than the 1.3 million shares, as published in the Israeli media yesterday.

An amended filing was scheduled to be registered in Washington overnight.

In terms of the reasons for Morgan Stanley eyeing Koor as a worthwhile investment, the company was unable to elaborate. "We don't formally cover Koor as a stock," said the firm's London spokesman Ewart Glendinning. The company does not have an analyst specifically designated to Israel, but one who covers a number of countries.

Koor's spokesman refused to comment, saying he is spoken by legal considerations.

Morgan Stanley's main interests include invest-

ment banking, asset management, sales and trading. Annual turnover reached \$13.1 billion last year, more than 40% higher than in 1995, with a third of all revenues coming from international markets.

The New York-based company is recognized as the world's leading mergers-and-acquisitions consultant, and the third largest global underwriter.

This deal means that Koor, Israel's largest and most profitable private company is now some 26% foreign-owned, with US-based corporation Shamrock holding 20% of shares and leading Egyptian industrialist Ibrahim Kamel having recently bought 5% (according to the *Financial Times*), through his Cairo-based Kato group.

Revlon quits Israel after 36 years

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Revlon, the New York-based, beauty-products company, has decided it will close its manufacturing activity here, primarily because of the limited market and high labor costs, a senior manager for Revlon Israel said yesterday.

Revlon has been in Israel since 1961, making it one of the most veteran international firms here.

The toiletries and cosmetics manufacturer employs a total of 150 workers here, including marketing and sales people.

Over the course of the last few years, Revlon Israel has undergone a reorganization process, that has involved a reduction in production activity and increase in imported products.

Most of the company's sales to the local market consist of imported products.

The decision to terminate local manufacturing activities is part of the concern's recent strategy to concentrate manufacturing in fewer countries.

Meanwhile, many other international firms recently have established a presence here in an anticipation that the market will grow as a result of the peace process.

Revlon emphasized it is not pulling its business out of Israel, explaining that it intends to maintain its import and distribution operations.

"Revlon had every intention of continuing to build its business in this country," a spokesperson for the company said yesterday.

"There is no lack of commitment to the country of Israel or our business there," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said Revlon intends to expand its workforce and activity in Israel in line with any growth in business.

It is expected that Revlon will sell its property in Ashdod.



Coal clash
German coal miners jump a police barricade yesterday to enter the area of Bonn where many government offices are located. About 20,000 miners converged on Bonn to protest plans to trim coal subsidies. (Reuters)

Carrier, Tadiran ink \$17.5m. deal

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Carrier has signed an agreement to purchase 26 percent of Tadiran Appliances for \$17.5 million from its parent company Tadiran, Tadiran informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Carrier, considered the world's largest air-conditioning systems producer with 11% of the market, specializes in the manufacturing of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems and equipment. The concern's air-conditioner sales reached \$6 billion last year.

Under the agreement, Carrier will be able to purchase another 3% of Tadiran Appliances's shares

at the market price. Carrier also has received an option enabling it to increase its holdings in Tadiran Appliances to 51%.

This option can be exercised during a three-year period, starting in three years' time. The option will be exercised at a price determined by Tadiran Appliances's market price during the previous three-year period and the company's book value at the time of the transaction.

Carrier and Tadiran entered talks about four months ago. The partnership agreement is part of Tadiran's policy to forge partnerships with leading international concerns in the expectation they

will assist in the development of existing markets and in entering new markets, Tadiran general manager Yisrael Zamir said.

Carrier has investments in developed countries and in emerging markets, primarily in Asia.

Tadiran Appliances has suffered from increased competition in the air-conditioning market and a drop in demand for heaters in recent months. The company recently announced a fourth-quarter net loss of NIS 7m., compared with a net profit of NIS 2.3m. in the corresponding period last year. Net profit in 1996 fell to NIS 1.6m. from a profit of NIS 1.3m. in the previous year.

DA drops Ofer case

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and BATSHEVA TSUR

The Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office has decided to close the criminal file against businessman Yuli Ofer due to lack of sufficient evidence to warrant charges, the Justice Ministry said yesterday.

The file was connected to suspicions that Ofer purchased and used classified information belonging to United Mizrahi Bank while submitting a bid in the tender for the purchase of the bank's controlling stake at the end of 1994. The information concerned Mizrahi's provisions and taxation condition. The information allegedly was acquired from Doron Rosensweig, a former *Globe* economic journalist for \$15,000.

At the end of February, the District Attorney's Office decided to close the file against Ofer due to lack of evidence. Ofer is among the country's leading businessmen; his interests range from banking and real estate to shipping and industry.

"Everything has been cancelled. Several years after purchasing the bank, the District Attorney's Office has cleared me of any suspicions enabling me to return to the bank," Ofer said.

Last week, the District Attorney's Office filed an indictment at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court against Rosensweig, on suspicion that he received stolen confidential information.

The allegations against Ofer and Rosensweig were first brought to light shortly after the Ofer-Wertheim consortium submitted a bid to gain a controlling interest in Mizrahi. As a result, the Bank of Israel's supervisor of banks held up the sale until the case was reviewed.

The Bank of Israel found that the information sold did not provide Ofer with an advantage over the competition, the Akirov Group, in the sale process. After the sale, the State Attorney's Office continued to investigate whether the purchase of the information was legal.

Israeli firms, McDonnell Douglas win contract to study solar power

By JUDY SIEGEL

US aerospace giant McDonnell Douglas, along with Ormat Industries, Rotem Industries and the Weizmann Institute's Yeda Research and Development Company in the US, have won a \$5.3 million contract to demonstrate within three years the commercial feasibility of an advanced solar-power plant capable of producing tens of megawatts of electricity, the Weizmann Institute of Science this week reported.

The contract was awarded by the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission. The collaboration agreement was signed this week at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The system, developed by the Weizmann Institute, uses special optics and an innovative air receiver (called the Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research). Highly reflective mirrors, called heliostats, will track the sun and reflect it up to another mirror located on a central tower. This reflector will send the sunlight back down to a matrix of optical devices able to concentrate the light so that it becomes 5,000 to 10,000 times more powerful

than natural sunlight reaching earth.

This powerful radiation will then enter solar receivers on the ground and, in turn, heat compressed air to drive the turbogenerator that produces electricity.

The Weizmann system contains a number of innovations, including a solar receiver with hundreds of ceramic pins arranged in a geometric pattern that maximizes the collection and use of sunlight. Much of the research was supported by the chief scientist's office in the then-Ministry of Energy (now Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Ministry).

Three years ago, US President Bill Clinton and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin signed an agreement creating the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission to enhance cooperation and create technology-based jobs for the 21st century. The US-Israel collaboration was initiated to promote binational projects and implement technologies developed by Consolar, a consortium of Israeli companies and academic institutions.

The ultimate aim is to build solar energy stations that will produce power at prices competitive with those of conventional power stations.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS			
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.3.97)			
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8150	3.9754	3.8902
German mark	1.9558	1.9874	1.9745
French franc	5.8575	5.4440	5.4065
Japanese yen (100)	0.5800	0.5800	0.5800
Dutch florin	2.7889	2.7881	2.7881
Swedish krona	1.7890	1.7891	1.7891
Norwegian krona	2.2939	2.2939	2.2939
Denmark krone	0.4882	0.4882	0.4882
Finland mark	0.4888	0.4878	0.4878
Canadian dollar	0.5130	0.5213	0.5213
Australian dollar	0.6552	0.6552	0.6552
Irish punt	2.4364	2.4757	2.4757
Belgian franc (10)	2.6336	2.6780	2.6780
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9479	0.9479	0.9479
Italian lira (1000)	2.7728	2.8242	2.8242
Jordanian dinar	1.9684	2.0002	2.0002
Egyptian pound	4.8400	4.8500	4.8500
Irish punt	3.7999	3.8612	3.8612
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2672	5.2672	5.2672
	2.3035	2.3427	2.3427

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

حسابات التحويل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: AMEX, NASDAQ, LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like Am Israel Paper Mills, Amgen, etc.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like Bior Technology General, B.N.R. Technology, etc.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like IC Industries, U.S. Intelligence, etc.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like ISG Int Software Group, Summit Design, etc.

MISHTANIM LEADING ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like Amgen, Amgen, etc.

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various international companies like Amgen, Amgen, etc.

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NEW YORK

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TASE ROUNDUP

Rate worries hit shares

Mishtanim 251.70 ▼ 1.69%

Maof 259.20 ▼ 1.59%

Shares dropped on concern that Friday's consumer price report might not prompt the central bank to cut interest rates.

Dead Sea Bromine Ltd. went down 4 percent to NIS 19.66 and Blue Square Properties and Supersol Investments Ltd. went down 4.25% and 3% to 32.61 and 10.11 respectively.

Israel Chemicals Ltd. was the most active issue, dropping 1.25% to NIS 3.99.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: US Dollar, Starting, Mark. Shows interest rates for US Dollar, Starting, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, DJ Utilities, etc. Shows various market indices.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - London's FTSE 100 index of leading shares finished at its sixth consecutive record close...

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average edged into record ground for a second session yesterday...

NYSE STOCKS

Table with columns: Unchanged, Advances, Declines. Shows NYSE stock market data.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows dollar cross-rates for various currencies.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows New York metal fix prices.

LONDON

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows London market data.

PARIS

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Last, Change. Shows Frankfurt market data.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

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Maccabi forces decider with Efes

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv forced a third and deciding game in their Euro League Final 16 matchup with a 78-65 victory over Efes Pilsen at Yad Eliahu last night.

The winner of the showdown tomorrow in Istanbul will advance to the quarterfinals.

Derrick Sharp was the star of the game, coming off the bench to give a boost to a sluggish Maccabi offense, and finish with 15 points.

Buck Johnson, who had another consistent night on the floor, was the game's high scorer with 19 points. He shot 60 percent from the field and added four rebounds and four assists, as the Israelis found a way to overcome the Turks' zone defense.

Nadav Henefeld also played a good game at both ends of the court, helping to contain, along with Sharp, the offensive weapons of Efes Pilsen on defense while scoring 14 points.

Nine of these came in the first half when Maccabi had few other options.

Maccabi got off to a slow start, falling behind 13-5 in the first five minutes, and seemed destined to repeat the same mistakes which resulted in Game 1's 76-67 defeat in Istanbul.

Efes controlled the boards early on, as the Turks repeatedly had sec-



PULLING BACK - Brad Leaf, who evened the score for Maccabi late in the first half, goes up against Efes Pilsen. (AP)

ond and third chances on the offensive end, while Maccabi looked disorganized on offense.

Doron Sheffer and Oded Katash, who combined for only five points in Game 1, disappointed once again in the first half last night, scoring only four points between them, while the usually reliable Randy White was held without a first-half point.

However, thanks to strong play from both Johnson and Henefeld, Maccabi was able to stay in the game.

Maccabi head coach Zvika Sherf also caused problems for the Efes offense midway through the half by inserting Constantin Popa, who help redirect several Turkish shots and contributed two field goals himself, both on nice assists from Johnson.

Maccabi chipped away at the lead before finally taking its first advantage at 29-28 on the first of two Johnson free throws with only 1:22 left in the half.

That's when Sharp made his first contribution of the night, hitting a three-pointer with only 13 seconds remaining to send Maccabi to the locker room with a 33-30 advantage.

Thanks in large part to 12 more second-half points from Sharp, Maccabi never lost the lead in the second period, although the advantage was as slim as 50-49 with 7:18 to go.

But the Israelis responded to that challenge with perhaps its finest attack of the night, when Sharp hit his third three-pointer after all five Maccabi players touched the ball in a patience which was missing for much of Game 1.

For Maccabi, Johnson had 19, Sharp 15, Henefeld 14, Katash 12 (10 of them in the last three minutes of the game), White 8 (all in the second half), Brad Leaf and Popa with 4, and Sheffer with 2.

For Efes Pilsen, Petar Naumoski had 16 points, once again below his European average of 21.3 points a game entering the series. Vassilij Karasev had 15, Mirsad Turkan 11, Tamer Oyguc 10, Derrick Alston 7, and Ufuk Sarcia 6 (after he led the Turks with 20 points in Game 1).

In other quarterfinal action last night, Estudiantes Madrid defeated visiting Villeurbanne of France 79-77 to send that series back to Spain for the deciding game. The winner of that series plays the winner of the Maccabi-Efes Pilsen matchup.

Meanwhile, Panathinaikos, Teamsystem Bologna and Barcelona all clinched spots in the quarterfinals by sweeping their series with Limoges, Caja San Fernando Seville, and Alba Berlin respectively.

Parizan Belgrade defeated Olympiakos in Athens 61-60 to send that series to a third game.



HEAD ON - Matthias Svensson during training with the Swedish national team at Ramat Gan yesterday. (AP)

Last chance for Israel to experiment in friendly v. Sweden

By DEREK FATTAL

Tonight's soccer friendly at Ramat Gan's National Stadium against Sweden concludes Israel's trio of preparatory matches for the all-important World Cup group qualifier at the end of the month away to Luxembourg.

The match also presents an opportunity for Swedish manager Tommy Svensson to boost his squad's flagging spirits, following an unimpressive record to date in Group 4 of the qualifiers, where the Swedes languish in third place, with six points, a point behind both Scotland and Austria who each have a game in hand.

Injuries and foreign club commitments have left both squads without the services of key players. Israel coach Shlomo Scharf is pinning his hopes on the two stars of the match against Germany - Ronnie Rosenthal and Ran Ben-Shimon, to come up with the goods once again.

While both players did a good job of deadening the Germans in midfield two weeks ago, they will need to play a more creative role in getting the ball forward tonight if Israel are to exact revenge for the 8-1 hammering (on aggregate) that was meted out by Swedes in the two qualifying matches played between the sides in the run-up to USA '94. The Israelis lost to Sweden 3-1 in the first match played in November 1992 at Ramat Gan, then received a 5-0 hiding at the Roland Stadium seven months later.

Scharf will be opening with two strikers - Ben Yehuda captain Alon Mizrahi will play upfront alongside

Eli Ohana - which should give the hosts some of the attacking muscle that was lacking against Germany. Hapoel Beersheba's Shai Holtzman is also likely to be given a run in the forward line as substitute at some point.

Avi Nimmi and Itzik Zohar - who are both unfit - will be replaced in midfield by Yossi Abukhis and Nir Klinger, while Moshe Giam returns to take over from the ill David Amslem who has been struck by a bout of flu, as left full back.

There are serious doubts for Svensson over the fitness of AC Milan midfielder Jesper Blomquist. The former IFK Gothenburg player made the journey to Israel but is still said to be suffering from an injury affecting his right leg. His Serie A colleague, Bologna's Stefan Schwarz is unlikely to play after being injured at the weekend against Fiorentina, but Kent Andersson who is enjoying a purple patch with the Florence club will be in the opening line-up.

Local fans will relish the prospect of seeing one of the game's greats, veteran goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli grace in action tonight. This will be the 12th meeting between the two nations which first met in 1962. The Israelis have only won once compared to the Swedes' six victories. The most famous meeting was the 1-1 draw at the Mexico '70 World Cup finals.

Tonight's encounter kicks off at 6 pm, and will be shown live on cable Channel 5.

ISRAEL (Goalies: Rafi Cohen, Nir Klinger, Arli Benada, Amir Shohbi, Moshe Giam, Fikri Halifa, Ronan Rosenthal, Yossi Abukhis, Ran Ben-Shimon, Eli Ohana, Alon Mizrahi.

Iraklis ends Hap. Jerusalem's European dreams

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Saving their worst European Cup performance for last, Hapoel Jerusalem was eliminated from European Cup play last night, bowing 70-58 to Iraklis Salonika and worse yet going out not with a bang, but a whimper.

Call it a Greek tragedy if you want, but truth be told, it was more like a comedy of offensive errors for Hapoel. Embarrassing doesn't even describe the poor effort Jerusalem exhibited in its most important game of the season, but give full credit to Iraklis, who once again used a patient, disciplined game to overcome the five-point advantage Jerusalem brought into the game from its 68-63 victory a week ago at Malha.

Even in that contest, it was clear that Jerusalem could not do what it had done so successfully against other European foes: run, or get any kind of three-point game going.

Controlling the backboards once again, Iraklis rarely gave Jerusalem any chance to race down court, but even when they did, Jerusalem managed to find a way to mess up on offense. Jerusalem was even pitiful at the foul line, going an overall 17-29.

The Greeks showed Hapoel just how bad a night it was going to be from the outset, racing to an 8-0 lead before you could say Euripides. When Iraklis's Steve Bucknell (high scorer with 23 points) hit a three-pointer, Iraklis led 19-6, and Jerusalem looked totally out of it.

Coach Gadi Kedari's club looked clueless on offense, scoring just six points in the first 10 minutes of play.

Point guard Papi Turgeman's flu slowed him down, but the flu bug couldn't explain Jerusalem's total ineptness on offense. When they finally did mount an attack of sorts, Iraklis reserve forward John Brogos chipped

in seven points to snuff out any thoughts of a Jerusalem rally, and a confused Hapoel club left the court trailing 31-17 at halftime.

Jerusalem came out energized, and ran off seven straight points to give the several hundred Hapoel fans who made the trip to Salonika some hope. But Hapoel's inability to combine stops on defense with some scoring punch made it all but impossible to cut into the Iraklis lead.

Dan Bingenheimer had success feeding Billy Thompson (Jerusalem's joint top scorer with Adi Gordon, 20 points) underneath, and Jerusalem crept within 46-37. However, Bingenheimer got called for a technical, Brogos put home an offensive rebound, as did guard George Yanuzakos, and Iraklis led 52-38.

To its shame, Kedari's club then rolled over and played dead. Bucknell scored at will, Eric Meek stuffed one home, and the lead quickly

ballooned to an insurmountable 60-40. Jerusalem players, instead of clawing for each ball, as they had early in the second half, were content to watch Iraklis run up the score.

Only a last minute flurry in garbage time made the game as close as it was, leaving the Jerusalem fans who made the trip to Salonika wondering whether they wouldn't have been better off staying home.

Before the season began, Jerusalem had a chance to sign forward Hubert Roberts, but decided against it. Ton bad, Roberts could have supplied rebounding and defense against the big Greek side. Last night, he was sorely missed as Jerusalem had no big men off the bench to help out other than Eyal Hai, who was useless on offense.

Despite the loss, Israel may yet have a second representative in the Euroleague next year due to Jerusalem's efforts. But Iraklis's win guaranteed Greece a third representative.

Liverpool repeat last-minute 4-3 win over Newcastle

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - In an amazing case of deja vu, Liverpool beat Newcastle 4-3 in a soccer classic for the second successive season at Anfield on Monday night with the winning goal being scored in injury time.

Almost a year after Liverpool's memorable 4-3 win over Newcastle last April, the two sides

produced another breathtaking performance, with Liverpool racing into a 3-0 halftime lead before allowing Newcastle to level at 3-3 with two goals in the last three minutes of normal time.

Then with 77 seconds of injury time on the clock, Robbie Fowler broke Newcastle's hearts with a close-range header to give

Liverpool their astonishing win. Last year, 80 seconds of injury time had been played when Stan Collymore scored Liverpool's winner.

The outcome not only put fans of both teams through the emotional wringer, but it also kept alive Liverpool's hopes of winning the title and at the same time

just about killed off Newcastle's.

The victory moved Liverpool on to 56 points, a point behind leaders Manchester United with both teams having played 29 matches, and if Liverpool win all their remaining games - including their home clash with Manchester United on April 19 - they will win the title.

Wright and Schmeichel urged to end dispute

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and Arsenal striker Ian Wright were urged to end their bitter dispute publicly by English FA chief executive Graham Kelly yesterday.

Kelly's plea in an open letter to both players, came on the day Britain's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decided Schmeichel would not face charges over allegations he racially abused black striker Wright.

"There is insufficient evidence to support criminal charges," a CPS spokesman said. Schmeichel was the subject of a police investigation following allegations by television viewers that he shouted racist abuse at

Wright during a premier league clash at United's Old Trafford ground on November 16.

Animosities between the two players resurfaced in a match at Arsenal's Highbury stadium last month when Wright escaped being sent off following a two-fisted challenge on the Danish goalkeeper.

As the players left the pitch at the end of the Highbury match Wright had to be restrained by stewards as he tried to confront Schmeichel. Police intervened to keep the two apart.

Kelly wrote in his letter to Schmeichel: "I have to decide what is best for English foot-

ball. I have to be aware that both you and Ian Wright are public figures, idolized by millions of football fans at home and abroad. Your example is vitally important.

"That is why I ask you, in the interests of the game as a whole, to make a public statement of reconciliation with Ian Wright as soon as possible. In doing so, you can be a power for bringing the game together, not dividing it.

"In current circumstances, a drawn out disciplinary procedure with uncertain results would not be helpful. I want to avoid it, unless you and Ian Wright leave me no alternative."

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Desmond Haynes calls it a day

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Veteran West Indian cricketer Desmond Haynes, one of the most prolific and popular figures in the game, has played his last first class match.

The 41-year-old batsman has announced his retirement and completed his last game playing for Western Province in Cape Town on Monday.

The opener made 83 and a second innings, third ball duck for Province against new South African domestic champions Natal in his 376th and final match.

"I spoke to Don Bradman and he said: 'You've got to end with a duck,' so I said: 'If it's good enough for you, it's good enough for me'," joked Haynes, recalling the great Australian batsman who was dismissed for a duck in his final Test innings needing only four to guarantee a Test average in excess of 100.

Despite the duck Haynes enjoyed his most successful season of three with Western Province, scoring 600 runs at an average of 50 with a top score of 202.

In all first class cricket for Barbados, West Indies, Middlesex and Western Province, Haynes scored 26,030 runs at an average of 45.91, winning the national championships at least once with all three of his clubs.

He hit 61 centuries and 138 fifties with a highest score of 255 not out for Middlesex against Sussex at Lord's in 1990. He helped the county to win the championship that year with a season's best of 2,346 runs.

Haynes played in 116 Test matches - second behind Viv Richards (121) on the West Indies' all-time list - between 1978 and 1994, again reserving his best for Lord's when he scored 184 against England in 1980. He was captain on four occa-



OLD FAITHFUL - Desmond Haynes has retired.

sions. He made 17 other Test centuries and 39 half-centuries, scoring 7,487 runs for an average of 42.29.

In 90 of his Tests Haynes opened with Gordon Greenidge in the most prolific opening partnership in Test history, setting a string of partnership records. They shared 16 century opening stands with a best of 298 (a West Indian first wicket record) against the long-suffering English in 1989-90.

Haynes made his first-class debut for his native Barbados in January 1977 and he appeared in his first Test the following year against Australia at Port-of-Spain when he made 61.

At one point he played in 72 consecutive Tests and was the first man in Test history to carry his bat through three Test innings (v Pakistan, Karachi, 1986-87, v England at The Oval, 1991 and v Pakistan at Port-of-Spain 1992-93).

NEWS

in brief

Lipkin-Shahak to South Africa

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak departed yesterday for visits to South Africa and then Thailand, aimed at strengthening military ties with the two states, the IDF Spokesman said.

"During his trip he will meet the army chiefs of these states and visit army bases. The visit is meant to strengthen relations between the Israel Defense Forces and the armies of South Africa and Thailand," the IDF Spokesman said. Israel has been worried by a South African proposal to sell tank firing systems to Syria.



Lipkin-Shahak (IDF Spokesman)

Turkish defense minister to visit

Turkey's defense minister will visit here early next month, stepping up contacts in the defense field, the Anatolia news agency said yesterday. Minister Turhan Tayan is to meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai during his visit, the first by a Turkish defense minister. Turkey seeks cooperation with Israel in military training and in the arms industry. A \$632.5 million project to upgrade 54 Turkish F-4 jets by an Israeli company began last month, during the visit of Turkey's chief of staff. AP

Preferential mortgages to be renewed

Low-interest mortgages for national priority areas will be renewed in the next few days, the Housing Ministry announced yesterday. The renewal, which has been delayed for technical reasons, will be retroactive and those waiting for it will not incur any penalties as a result, the ministry added. Itm

AT THE KNESSET

Organization for terror victims bill passes

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday passed the second and third readings of a bill which will create an organization to represent terror victims, along the lines of the organization for IDF disabled. The bill passed unanimously by 14 votes.

Under the new law, terror victims or their surviving relatives will automatically have membership fees to the organization deducted from their compensation. Several terror victims were present in the plenum to see the bill pass. More than 3,000 people are eligible to join the organization.

Parents' debts won't affect child allowance

The Income Tax Authority will no longer be able to put a lien on child allowance payments because of the debts of parents, under a new law which passed in the Knesset yesterday. The bill was initiated by Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) and passed unanimously. Gozansky said that, in many cases in which child allowances have been withheld until now, there has also been a lien on the parents' salaries.

She said some 20,000 families a year were affected by a lien on the child allowances, of which some 40 percent had four or more children.

MK: Prime minister is over-protected

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) has written to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Deputy Premier Moshe Katsav asking for a discussion on the issue of protection for the premier. Cohen stressed that, although he is aware of the threats to Netanyahu, particularly in view of the Rabin assassination, he believes the protective

measures have gone beyond all reasonable limits.

Cohen in particular noted the fact that IDF soldiers and officers have been required to store their arms during ceremonies attended by Netanyahu.

Petition to make Jerusalem's McDonald's kosher

Six MKs from different non-religious parties have written to the president of McDonald's, James Cantalupo, asking that the McDonald's branch in Jerusalem be made kosher. The MKs are: Haim Dayan (Tzomet), Nawaf Massalha (Labor), Rehavam Ze'evi (MoleDET), Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya), Yona Yahav (Labor), and Alex Lubotsky (Third Way). Only Dayan and Lubotsky are religious Jews, and Massalha is Moslem.

In their letter they claim that Omri Padani, who directs the McDonald's franchise in Israel, "is a known radical political activist... and sometimes an anti-religious fanatic." The MKs submitted copies of interviews with Padani to back their charge that he is exploiting McDonald's to wage war on the religious population.

An issue of defense or environment?

MK Rafi Elul (Labor) is appealing to Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) not to prevent the Knesset Science Committee from discussing the environmental implications of the Biological Research Institute in Ness Ziona. Landau wants the issue to be transferred to his committee, saying the institute's work is related to defense issues and should not be discussed in an open committee. Elul maintains the public has the right to know of the environmental implications.

PM: Russia visit a success

Yeltsin says Russia will not supply advanced arms to Syria

News agencies

MOSCOW - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu completed his state visit to Russia yesterday, saying the trip has created a partnership and friendship between the two states.

"It's clear there is a new partnership here. It joins the friendship we have with the United States. This partnership is very important for us, and so it shall remain," Netanyahu said.

President Boris Yeltsin said friction between the two nations was a thing of the past.

"Our countries and their leaders have passed the stage of prejudice and are now energetically moving toward each other," Yeltsin told Netanyahu at the start of their Kremlin meeting.

The presidential press service described the Yeltsin-Netanyahu meeting as "open and trustful," a rare praise in diplomatic language.

Yeltsin said Russia intends to play an active role in the Middle East peace process and urged Netanyahu to advance talks with the Palestinians.

This was corroborated in Jerusalem, when the deputy head of Military Intelligence, Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad, who heads the IDF research division, told Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Russia is strengthening its ties with Iran to return to a position of influence in the Middle East.

Netanyahu also discussed with Yeltsin the issue of Russian arms supplies to Syria, emphasizing the danger such a deal could cause Israel. Yeltsin promised that Russia will not supply advanced military equipment to Syria.

Yeltsin also suggested that Syria is interested in resuming negotiations with Israel.

Netanyahu's two-day trip

focused largely on economic and cultural cooperation. Israel still is relying on US mediation in the Middle East - although Netanyahu praised Russia's "balancing" role in the region.

"We have a deep, traditional friendship with the United States and a new, promising friendship with Russia. The two do not contradict each other," Netanyahu told reporters.

Despite the warm words, the sides also traded criticism. Yeltsin voiced "concern" about Israeli building plans in eastern Jerusalem and Netanyahu called on Russia to stop military and nuclear cooperation with Iran, where Russia is building a nuclear reactor.

Netanyahu appeared undeterred. Cheered by a joyous crowd of Russian Jews early yesterday, he vowed to keep Jerusalem united and under Israeli control.

"I hope... that we will be able to

welcome you in the unified Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, which forever will stay united and under Israel's sovereignty," Netanyahu said.

Speaking in Hebrew at Moscow's main Choral Synagogue, he otherwise avoided Middle East politics, praising the changes that have allowed Jewish religion and culture to blossom in Russia. Hundreds of Jews, including young school students, interrupted Netanyahu's speech with applause.

Yeltsin also signed a multi-million dollar deal to improve Russian military jets and civilian planes at the Israel Aircraft Industries, whose chairman Yanosh Ben-Gal accompanied the prime minister.

Netanyahu is to visit St. Petersburg today before returning to Jerusalem.

Liav Collins contributed to this report.



Anglican condemnation

The Most Reverend Samir Katiby of Jerusalem (left) and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey chat before a procession in Jerusalem's St. George's Cathedral yesterday. Carey, leader of the Anglican Communion, spoke of the "justified longings" of both Israelis and Palestinians. But he singled out Israeli plans to build in Jerusalem's Har Homa as an example of an action which appears to undermine the peace process. (Text: Haim Shapiro; photo: Brian Hentler)

Doctors demand: Ease hospital overcrowding

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Ministry Director-General Gabi Barabach was due late last night to meet with heads of the Israel Medical Association to discuss doctors' demands for increased manpower and funds to reduce overcrowding in public hospitals.

The Treasury has so far offered only 1,600 additional beds over the next four years, while the IMA has demanded an extra 7,000 beds, 1,600 of them immediately.

The IMA last week instructed its

members to practice "safe and responsible medicine" by discharging patients only when they're well enough and not prematurely due to severe overcrowding in the wards, especially in internal medicine departments.

Occupancy in internal medicine wards now reaches 150 percent in Wolfson, 122% in Barzilai and Nahariya, 110% in Sieff, 140% in the Rabin Medical Center-Hasharon Campus, and 128% in the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson.

In a phone call earlier yesterday

to IMA chairman Yoram Blachar, Barabach asked the IMA to reduce the pressure on the hospitals by not applying work sanctions, at least until the end of negotiations with the Treasury. Blachar said the doctors had not created pressure, but rather it was the "Finance Ministry's tight-fisted policy" that was to blame.

IMA representatives are to appear before the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee today to discuss the problems in the country's hospitals.

WEATHER

Colin 8-15

Haifa 11-23
Tiberias 11-24
Afula 10-22
Samaria 8-17
Tel Aviv 11-22
Jerusalem 7-16
Beer Sheva 9-22
Dead Sea 14-25

Elul 12-27

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

Expert warns of earthquake danger

By LIAT COLLINS

Three potentially devastating dangers to the country were discussed yesterday by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee: a strong earthquake; poisonous algae which could seriously pollute the Kinneret; and leaks from the Ramat Hovav toxic-waste site to water sources and streams.

Prof. Shmuel Friedman, of the Technion's civil engineering faculty, and Dr. Avi Shapira, the director of the Geophysical and Oil Research Institute, both presented a chilling picture of the dangers posed by earthquakes.

An earthquake in the Jordan Valley, which is part of the African Rift Valley, could affect Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, they said. They called for building to standards designed to best withstand tremors.

Shapira said an earthquake rating six on the Richter scale, which could destroy homes in all three major cities and wreak havoc on the economy, could happen in the near future.

Both Shapira and Friedman said much could be done to limit the damage, but the subject is not taken seriously.

"I can't even estimate the damage, because the research is being held up for lack of funds," Shapira said.

Prof. Dan Bahat of Ben-Gurion University said decisions taken concerning Ramat Hovav showed the lack of coordination between scientists and the decision-makers.

He said the pools built to hold toxic liquid materials were not built to appropriate standards and without professional supervision.

Water containing heavy metals and other toxic matter leaks from the ponds and pollutes the nearby streams, causing irreversible damage to the coastal aquifer, from which drinking water is pumped, Bahat said.

Drinking water also is being endangered in the country's largest reservoir, the Kinneret, where a poisonous algae has developed and spread in the last three years, according to Dr. Yuval Cohen, director of the Oceanic and Limnological Institute.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather		
Amsterdam	03	37	15	59	cloudy
Berlin	02	36	16	61	clear
Buenos Aires	02	35	15	60	clear
Cairo	10	50	20	68	clear
Chicago	-03	37	14	57	partly
Cologne	-02	35	15	59	cloudy
Frankfurt	02	36	16	61	clear
Geneva	-02	35	15	59	cloudy
Helsinki	-02	28	12	54	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	70	23	73	clear
Jakarta	18	70	23	73	clear
London	11	50	20	70	clear
Los Angeles	14	57	21	68	clear
Mexico	07	45	11	58	clear
Montreal	-05	23	02	36	clear
Moscow	-01	30	10	50	clear
New York	05	41	12	54	cloudy
Paris	04	38	18	64	clear
Rome	05	41	15	59	clear
Stockholm	02	36	06	46	clear
Sydney	07	53	20	70	clear
Tokyo	10	48	09	50	clear
Vancouver	-01	30	03	37	clear
Warsaw	10	48	17	63	clear
Zurich	02	36	16	61	partly

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's daily chance draw were the 9 of spades, 7 of hearts, ace of diamonds, and king of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 45, 39, 22, 17, 12 and 2 and the additional number was 43.

US institution in capital not linked to PA

By ELLI WOHLGELERITER

The United States has been given assurances by the government that the eastern Jerusalem office of a US organization, which was visited twice by police in the last two weeks, will be allowed to remain open and will not be visited again, according to Duncan MacInnes, spokesman for the American Consulate in Jerusalem.

MacInnes said that US Ambassador Martin Indyk was told yesterday by a high-ranking Israeli official that the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a Washington-based organization that works to promote democracy around the world and works closely with the Palestinian Legislative Council, can continue to function and that no further action would be taken.

Police first visited the NDI office on February 27 and then again on Monday, to enquire about the organization's connection with the Palestinian Authority, according to Sean Carroll, director of NDI's Jerusalem office.

"I said at least three times that we have no connection to the PA," he said. "I told them we're an American organization; I told them they were making a big mistake in coming here and questioning us, that they were in the wrong place."

According to a spokesman at the Ministry of Internal Security, the police had prior intelligence information that there was a connection between the NDI and the PA, "which is why they went to check the offices the first time. They asked one of the people who was working there if this office was in any way affiliated with the PA, and she said yes. That's why they came back."

The spokesman said that after the police were shown documents about the program by Carroll and told that the NDI is funded by the US and that the office has nothing to do with the PA, the police concluded their investigation.

The NDI office in Jerusalem employs 10 people in Jerusalem, two in Gaza, and has 21 field employees. Five of the employees are American, one is Canadian, and the rest are Palestinians.

The Institute, an affiliate of the Democratic Party and funded by the US Agency for International Development, has 33 offices around the world. It worked together with the Jimmy Carter Center to monitor the Palestinian elections in January of 1996. One of its former vice chairmen was Madeleine Albright, the US secretary of state.

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